FRONTISPIECE.

Engraved for Bowlker's Angler.

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THE ART OF ANGLING;

OR,

COMPLEAT FLY-FISHER:

DESCRIBING

THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF FISH,

THEIR

HAUNTS, PLACES OF FEEDING, AND RETIREMENT;

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE

GENERATION OF FISHES,

AND

OBSERVATIONS ON THE BREEDING OF CARP,

TOGETHER WITH

DIRECTIONS HOW TO REGULATE POOLS OR PONDS.

ALSO

THE VARIOUS KINDS OF BAITS,

AND THE GREAT DIVERSITY OF

FLIES THAT NATURE PRODUCES.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING ARTIFICIAL FLIES.

Illustrated with many new Improvements in the

ART OF ANGLING.

By *CHARLES BOWLKER*, of Ludlow.

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PREFACE.

THE intent of the following sheets, is as well to instruct the beginner in the rudiments of the Art of Angling, as to improve the knowledge of the proficient; for although this Art has been much improved in our age, yet it is still improveable; and I hope this free acknowledgment will beget candour in the courteous reader to encourage my zealous good-will herein.

When you read the title-page of this book, you are promised secrets that carry in them both parts of perfection; to delight and to yield profit. But lest it should be objected that it is difficult, if not impossible, for any one to teach and instruct others so much as in one branch of any art or science justly, of which he himself is not master, (and it will hold good in the Art of Angling,) my answer is ready: I hve been a practitioner in this art almost thirty years; and according to my practice and experience, have contrived, considered and fitted this for publication, in such a plain and easy method as avoids needless repetition, which might make it swell to no purpose; having so digested and adopted it for use, as gives little more trouble to him who desires to be instructed in, or improved by it, than to look into any particular chapter of each respective fish, and he will find the necessary information relating to such fish under its proper head.

Having thus far premiſed, and as the end of Angling is amuſement, I muſt here give ſome general Rules.

Patience is ever allowed to be a great virtue, and is one of the firſt requiſites for an angler.

In your excurſion to or from fiſhing, ſhould you overheat yourſelf with walking, avoid ſmall liquors and water as you would poiſon; a glaſs of generous wine, brandy, or rum, is more likely to promote cooling effects without danger of taking cold.

In ponds angle near the fords where cattle go to drink, and in rivers angle for Breams in the deepeſt and quieteſt parts; for Eels, under trees hanging over banks; for Chub in deep ſhaded holes; for Perch in ſcours; for Roach in winter in the deeps, at all other times where you angle for Perch; and for Trouts in quick ſtreams.

When you have hooked a fiſh, never ſuffer him to run out with the line; but keep your rod bent, and as near perpendicular as you can; by this method the top plies to every pull he makes, and you prevent the ſtraining of your line. For the ſame reaſon,

Never raiſe a large fiſh out of the water by taking the hair to which the hook is faſtened, or indeed any part of the line into your hand; but either put a landing net under him, or for want of that your hat: You may indeed, in Fly-fiſhing, lay hold of your line to draw a fiſh to you; but this muſt be done with caution.

Your ſilk for whipping hooks and other fine work, muſt be very ſmall; uſe it double, and wax it (and indeed every other ſort of binding,) with ſhoe-makers wax; but if you wax it too ſtiff, temper it with tallow.

Incloſe

Incloſe the knots and joints of your line in a little pill of wax, preſſed very cloſe, and the ſuperfluities pinched off; this will ſoon harden, and prevent the knots from drawing.

If for ſtrong fiſhing you uſe the graſs, which, when you can can get it fine, is to be preferred to gut, remember to ſoak it always an hour in water befor you uſe it; this will make it tough and prevent it ſinking.

Whenever you begin to fiſh, wet the ends of the joints of your rod; which as it makes them ſwell, will prevent it looſening. And,

If you happen with rain or otherwiſe to wet your rod, ſo that you cannot pull the joints aſunder, turn the ferrel round a few times in the flame of a candle, and they will eaſily ſeparate.

Before you fix the loop of Briſtle to your hook in order to make a Fly, to prevent its drawing, be ſure to ſinge the end of it; do the ſame by the hair to which at any time you whip a hook.

Make Flies in warm weather only; for in cold your waxed ſilk will not draw.

In rainy weather, or when the ſeaſon for fiſhing is over, repair whatever damage your tackle has ſuſtained.

Never regard what bunglers and ſlovens tell you, but believe that neatneſs in your tackle, and a nice and curious hand in all your work, are abſolutely neceſſary.

Never fiſh in any water that is not common without firſt obtaining leave of the owners, which is ſeldom denied to thoſe who deſerve it.

As dry feet are neceſſary to health, I have copied an excellent receipt for the angler's uſe, that will pre-

vent his boots or ſhoes letting in water. "*Take a pint of linſeed oil, with half a pound of mutton ſuet, ſix or eight ounces of bees wax, and a halfpenny worth of roſin; boil theſe in a pipkin together, and then let it cool till it be luke-warm; take a little hair bruſh and lay it on your boots; but it is much better to be laid on the leather, before the boots are made, and bruſhed with it once over when they are, as for your old boots or ſhoes, you muſt bruſh them with it, when they are dry.*"

The angler being now furniſhed with every requiſite for the art of ground angling, his ſtrictly adhering to the theory laid down, in his practice, is the only thing he has to do; and he may depend on his endeavours being crowned with ſucceſs.

Laſtly. Remember that the wit and invention of man were given for greater purpoſes than to enſnare ſilly fiſh: and that how delightful ſoever Angling may appear, it ceaſes to be innocent when uſed otherwiſe than as mere recreation.

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TITLE

THE

ART of ANGLING, &c.

WHOEVER would become a compleat Angler, let him uſe all natural or artificial baits in ſuch ſeaſons, at ſuch times, places and waters, as nature hath provided, and ordained them, and as reaſon muſt beſt inform him: To be really uſeful, he muſt have all artificial baits made to imitate nature as much as poſſible; and ſuch as are pretty natural and partly artificial, compound or mixed, order and uſe them with the beſt advice, according to the practice of the greateſt artiſts.

THE Angler ſhould ever be careful to keep out of ſight of the fiſh, by ſtanding far from the bank: but muddy water renders this caution unneceſſary. It is proper to angle at ground, when the filth waſhed down by rain from the higher grounds is carried away by floods, and the river appears of a brown, cheſnut or ale colour. You may angle aground with a fly, after, or during a moderate ſhower.

FISHES of the ſame kind couple not, nor perform any act of generation, with any other of a different ſpecies; as Carp with Chub, or Chub with Carp; Perch with the Ruff, or Ruff with Perch; Roach with Dace, or Dace with Roach, &c.

THE ways of their generation are various, 1ſt. of Salmon, Trout, Greyling, &c. by the female ſhedding her ſpawn in places convenient, and the milter's caſting his ſperm upon it; in which the animal ſpirit abideth, till ſooner or later the young are brought forth: for the ſpirits may be bound in its ſeed with the cold, ſo that for a time it cannot exerciſe its operations, till the heat of the ſun hath a ſufficient influence upon them. 2d. Of ſome fiſh by gliding their bellies one againſt the other, with that celerity that human eyes can ſcarce perceive it. 3d. Freſh water fiſh generally breed but once a year, yet the waters would be over charged with infinite ſwarms of increaſe, as their fecundity is ſo wonderful, that a ſingle fiſh is capable of producing eight or ten millions in a ſeaſon, had not nature wiſely decreed that they ſhould not only devour a great part of their own ſpawn, but, moſt of them the ſpawn of one another; and this mighty increaſe may well be perceived by the myriads of eggs in one female fiſh. The ſame enmities that ſubſiſt among land animals prevail with equal fury in the waters, and with this aggravation, that by land the rapacious kind ſeldom devour each other; but, in rivers and the ocean, it ſeems an univerſal

verſal warfare, fiſh againſt fiſh; the large devour the ſmall, even of their own ſpecies; and thoſe that eſcape, in their turn, become the tyrants of ſuch as are yet ſmaller than themſelves.

Some of the other chief deſtructives, and reductives, by which the numbers of thoſe natatile animals are leſſened, are theſe which follow: 1ſt. By the milter's abſence, when the female ſheds her ſpawn, ſo that for want of performing his natural office it proves fruitleſs and nothing comes thereof. 2d. By the waters being often tainted in divers ways; ſuch as lime being thrown in, or through exceſſive heat and drought. 3d. By many lakes, pools, rivers, &c. being evaporated and dried up by the heat of the ſun. 4th. By their wandering into the ſea. 5th. By being frozen to death by long continued froſts. 6th. By being devoured by amphibious creatures, as frogs, toads, &c. and by beaſts, fowls, and fiſhes of prey.

The generous angler, that values his health, begins not his noble recreation of angling till March; but in ſome years February affords the judicious angler more diverſion than March, after the dead cold hungry weather.

AS neceſſary to this little TREATISE, here follow the Names of the principal RIVERS in ENGLAND:

Thames	*Dove*	*Nyd*	*Tine*
Severn	*Dun*	*Ouſe*	*Teſt*
Trent	*Dart*	*Orweil*	*Teme*
Humber	*Eden*	*Onny*	*Thryn*
Medway	*Eamont*	*Parret*	*Tees*
Tweed	*Evenlode*	*Plim*	*Ver*
Wye	*Ex*	*Petterel*	*Uſk*
Avon	*Frome*	*Rother*	*Ware*
Are	*Iſis*	*Reck*	*Wever*
Arun	*Itchen*	*Rhea*	*Weland*
Blithe	*Iddle*	*Roden*	*Wenſbeck*
Breton	*Kennet*	*Ribble*	*Wey*
Calder	*Lea*	*Rumney*	*Waveney*
Cherwell	*Line*	*Stroud*	*Whittam*
Churner	*Lavant*	*Swift*	*Windruſh*
Chelmer	*Lon*	*Stour*	*Waſh*
Coln	*Lowther*	*Stow*	*Willey*
Clun	*Lug*	*Sherburn*	*Warf*
Crouch	*Merſey*	*Swall*	*Youre*
Dee	*Monnow*	*Salwarp*	*Yare*
Derwent	*Nen*	*Tame*	
Deben	*Nadden*	*Tamer*	

THAMES, the chief river of the iſland, is compoſed of two rivers, Tame and Iſis; the former riſing in Buckinghamſhire, the other about

about two miles weſt of Cirenceſter, in Glouceſterſhire; and uniting their ſtreams with their names near Dorcheſter, in Oxfordſhire, make a fine beautiful river, and from thence is called by the above ſingle name of Thames; which flowing and journeying on through the ſeveral counties of Berks, Buckingham, Middleſex, Surrey, Eſſex, and Kent, joins the Medway in the very mouth of the Britiſh Ocean.

SEVERN is alſo a large and beautiful river, which, for the length of its navigation, may rival or even exceed the former; it has its riſe in Plinlimmon-hill, in Montgomeryſhire, and is capable of carrying large boats and barges in the ſame country; it waſhes, in its courſe, the walls of Shrewſbury, Worceſter, and Glouceſter, and ſeveral other places of leſs diſtinction; and at laſt diſembogues itſelf into the Briſtol Channel, about ſeven miles below that city.

TRENT, ſo called from its producing thirty kinds of fiſh, or from its reception of thirty leſſer rivers, has its fountain in Staffordſhire, and flowing through the ſeveral counties of Nottingham, Lincoln, Leiceſter and York, augmenteth the turbulent river Umber; the moſt violent current of all the iſland.

UMBER is not properly a diſtinct river, not having a ſpring head of its own; but is rather the mouth or receptacle of divers other rivers, eſpecially the Derwent, Ouſe, and Trent, here confluent and meeting together.

MEDWAY, a Kentiſh river, remarakable for its extent and ſafety in harbouring the royal navy of Great Britain.

TWEED is a river of the north-eaſt boundary of England, dividing it from Scotland; on whoſe bank ſtands the ſtrong and memorable town of Berwick.

WYE, a large and pleaſant river, which runs with a winding courſe through the counties of Brecknock, Hereford, Monmouth, and Glouceſter; and at laſt falls into the Britiſh Channel. There is another river of the ſame name in Dorſetſhire, (though differently ſpelled) at the mouth of which ſtands the town of Weymouth; ſo called from its ſituation: it is not unuſual to have ſeveral rivers, called by the ſame name, ſometimes three or four; as is remarkable in the names, Avon, Stour, Ouſe, and ſome others, of which there are ſeveral ſo called in different parts of England.

THERE may poſſibly be ſome rivers omitted in the catalogue, as conſiderable as many of thoſe ſet down: there are alſo innumerable brooks and rivulets (too many to be particularly taken notice of here), that afford the ſportſman as much diverſion as ſome of the larger rivers; by this means England enjoys the advantage of being better watered than moſt parts of the world; which greatly adds to the fertility of the ſoil, and beauty of the country; and the great plenty and variety of fiſh produced therein, adds conſiderably to the delight and convenience of the inhabitants.

I WILL

I WILL now proceed to give an account of our Freſh-water fiſh:

SALMON.

THE Salmon is accounted the king of freſh-water fiſh, and always breeds in rivers that have an immediate communication with the ſea; but ſo high or diſtant from it, as not to admit of any ſalt or brackiſh tincture; yet they ſpend much of their time in the ſalt water, making the ſea, generally, their winter quarters, perhaps for warmth as much as for any thing elſe. It is the largeſt of freſh-water fiſh, and therefore as well as for the ſuper-excellency of his nature, is called the king of freſh-water fiſh; is a fiſh of prey, and has teeth in his mouth as other fiſh of prey have; and when in ſeaſon he is adorned with a row of ſmall round black ſpots along the middle of each ſide, from head to tail. Salmon are of ſeveral ſorts and different appellations; but for a nice taſte, Thames Salmon are reckoned to exceed thoſe of any other river. The Severn Salmon are excellent in their kind, and are firſt in ſeaſon of any river in England.

Their Haunts and Spawning Times.

SALMON frequent large rivers moſt; ſuch as empty themſelves into the ſea, not only at the entrance of thoſe rivers where they loſe themſelves in the ſea, but many miles up them, where the current is moſt ſwift and violent, and whoſe bottoms

bottoms are moſt ſtony, rocky, pebly, gravelly, and weedy, and come into them in February, March, April, and May, ſometimes ſooner, and ſometimes later in the year, where they fatten; the ſea adding greatly to their growth and goodneſs. They are ever reſtleſs, coveting to get near the ſpring head, and frequently wander into leſſer rivers that fall into the larger, eſpecially in ſpawning time, i. e. in September and October, where, in ſhallow places of thoſe ſmaller rivers, the female hath caſt her ſpawn, and the milter done his natural office, by ſhedding his milk upon it, they cover all with gravel and ſand.

When Salmon have ſpawned, they grow out of ſeaſon, weak and flaggy, break out in filthy ſcabs all over their bodies, loathſome to the ſight, and very unwholeſome to feed on. In this condition, after ſpawning, they return to ſea before Chriſtmas following, if they are not taken or ſtopped by floodgates, weirs and mills, and ſo confined to the freſh water; in which caſe they become lean, conſume and die within a year or two.

The principal occaſion of their dying is this; the Salmon being a fiſh by nature tender, and very chill, cannot, in the winter ſeaſon, endure the extreme frigidity of the freſh river water, by reaſon of its tenuity, eſpecially being ſo lately weakened by ſpawning; and therefore, by natural inſtinct, they make the ſea their winter habitation; the ſea-water being naturally warm. Eels being a like tender fiſh by nature, and moſt

ſenſible

ſenſible of cold, lay themſelves up in mud all the winter, for warmth, as not being then able to endure the ſharp coldneſs of the freſh water, and perhaps by the like inſtinct haſten to the ſea too, which they do as ſoon as there comes a flood to carry them off.

The Salmon ſpawn, ſo buried as aforeſaid, in a ſhort time becomes a fry of little fiſhes, which appear in March and April following, and many of them are taken in the ſame rivers where they were ſpawned, about four or five inches long, and are then called Sewins, Samlets, or Salmon-ſmelts, &c. and about that time of the year they go to the ſea in ſhoals the firſt flood that comes to carry them away. In July and Auguſt after they come back to the ſame rivers, by which time they become a foot or fourteen inches long, and are then called by other names, according to the proprieties of ſpeech of the different places where they are; as Salmon-peals, Salmon-trouts, or Salmon-morts. About the beginning of December they go to ſea again, and return not into the freſh rivers till April or May next, by which time they become two feet or twenty inches long. Then in December after, theſe return to ſea again, and come into the freſh rivers compleat Salmon, in February, March, April, and May following, to cool, delight, and refreſh themſelves in the freſh waters, looſen their bellies, and prepare them for ſpawning; being then about two years and ſix months old, but how long Salmon will live is uncertain.

Now

Now Salmon being found in our freſh rivers in the ſeveral preceding gradations, and deſcriptions gradual, hath cauſed ſome to think they are ſeveral ſorts of fiſh, but I conceive them to be all one and the ſame ſpecies, not coming to be compleat Salmon under two years and a half's growth; and the ground of my conception is, I could never find any ſpawn in any of the leſſer ſizes, before they come to be Salmon, which they moſt certainly would have, if of a different kind.

And although ſome affirm, that thoſe ſmall Salmon called Schedders, are bred of the ſpawn of the ſick Salmon that cannot get out of freſh rivers to ſea, and for that cauſe never grow bigger than they are when ſo called, yet I take it to be an error, becauſe thoſe Salmon ſpawn when in perfect health only, before the time of their going to ſea, and ſpawn no more after whilſt they live, unleſs they return firſt to ſea, and are purged and cleanſed by the ſalt water after ſpawning; but are taken or pine away and die in their impriſonment, either by exceſſive cold, or for want of ſuch purgation, or both; and the purging of the ſalt water may as well be a reaſon why Salmon grow ſo faſt, as the want thereof, the cauſe why they pine away and die ſo ſoon when impriſoned in freſh waters. Salmon being fiſh of prey, and great feeders, nature directs them to the ſalt waters as phyſic, to purge and cleanſe them, not only from their impurities after ſpawning, but from all their muddy terrene particles and groſs humours, acquired

quired by their extraordinary and exceſſive feeding all the ſummer in freſh rivers, and to harden their fat and fleſh, which makes them not only grow the faſter, but alſo become the more wholeſome food, ſavory and grateful to mankind; for the ſea admitting no mud, ſlime, or filth, work out groſs ſuperfluities, by its cleanſing, digeſting, attenuating, conſuming, aſtringent, and drying qualities, for in it dryneſs is predominant, as in freſh water, moiſture is; but how fiſh that naturally breed and live in the ſalt water become freſh fiſh, for ought I know, can be no more found out, than the cauſe of the ebbing and flowing of the ſea.

YET for all ſuch purgations we find that at the firſt coming back of Salmon, from the ſea, into freſh rivers, they are not then in right ſeaſon; nor, by the more ſubtle quality and tenuity of the freſh water, are they alſo cleared of the groſſer particles of the ſalt water, yet thereby they become more rarified, pure and wholeſome for food, according to ther ſuper-excellent nature, participating both of the freſh and ſalt water, which other fiſh do not in like manner, for which reaſon I ſuppoſe the Salmon is preferred before all fiſhes.

THOUGH the ſea water preſerves Salmon alive, and makes them grow faſter, by its heating, healing, purging, and cleanſing quality, yet, being bred in freſh rivers, and aſſimilated and indentified to them, and of the ſame temperament with them, why ſhould it be thought unreaſonable that the freſh water ſhould afford more

more kindly nouriſhment, and more variety of food, ſuitable to their nature, than the ſalt water, both to make them fatter, bring them into right ſeaſon, and adapt them for generation and ſpawning; eſpecially when it is conſidered that they dwell in the freſh waters three quarters of the year, and in ſome deep brackiſh rivers, that have an immediate communication with the ſea, abide therein all the year long, unleſs the extremity of a cold winter ſeaſon drives them into the ſalt ſea? and, when they are fatted and glutted with their long exceſſive feeding in freſh rivers, and have ſpawned, repair to the ſea for warmth; and to be purged from their groſs humours by the calidity of the ſaline waters: and when winter is over return to their ſummer habitations. For if this were not ſo, they would grow fatter in the ſalt water than in the freſh; ſpawn there, and be as fit to take at their return into the freſh rivers as after, which they are not.

That Salmon are naturally freſh-water fiſh, appears, not only by their being ſpawned in freſh rivers, and their long continuance in them, but alſo having wind-bladders or ſwimmers, as other freſh-water fiſh have, to bear up their bodies floating, poiſe and keep them equiponderant in the water, for, without ſuch airy veſſels, by reaſon of the tenuity of the freſh water, they would ſink to the bottom, and lie grovelling, as by breaking the bladder has been experimentally found: by the contraction and dilation of this bladder they are able to raiſe or ſink

ſink themſelves at pleaſure, and continue at what depth of water they liſt; but ſea-fiſh have no ſuch veſſels, becauſe their bodies are naturally borne up by the thicker, groſſer body of the ſea-water: this is the moſt perfect account of the names, nature, ſeaſon, and ſpawning time of this royal fiſh.

THE little Gravel Laſt-ſprings, or Samlets, which are often taken to be Salmon-fry, are a ſpecies of themſelves; the rivers Severn and Wye abound with them in great plenty: they ſpawn about the latter end of Auguſt, or beginning of September: it is a very nice fiſh to eat, and affords the angler much ſport.

The beſt Baits, Times and Seaſons to angle for Salmon.

SALMON take little fiſh beſt at their firſt coming into the freſh rivers: i. e. in February and March all the day long: and likewiſe flies and worms till the latter end of September: They are to be taken with almoſt any of the Trout baits. They commonly lie in the middle of the rough, and upper part of a gentle ſtream, when on prey: their beſt feeding time is from ſix till nine in the forenoon, and from three in the afternoon till ſun ſet, in a clear water, when the wind blows moderately againſt the ſtream: the two beſt months in the year to angle for them are March and September, particularly with a fly; or you might troll for them after the ſame manner you do for a Pike; when ſtruck he begins to plunge

and leap, for which reaſon, when you angle for him any way, uſe a reel with about forty or fifty yards of line to run off, otherwiſe he will break your tackle or his hold; for the length of line kills the fiſh, and affords the angler excellent diverſion.

I think it not amiſs here to add a ſecret mode to catch fiſh, though it is never uſed by the fair angler.

The Poacher's grand Secret.

TAKE nettles and cinque-foil, chop them ſmall; then mix ſome juice of houſe-leek with them; rub your hands therewith, then throw it into the water, and keep your hands in it; the fiſh will come to them. Or take heart-wort, and lime, mingle them together, and throw them into a ſtanding water, which will fox them; and then they are eaſily taken. But the beſt method is to take coculus indicus, which is a poiſonous narcotic, called alſo baccæ piſcatoriæ, fiſher's berries, and pound them in a mortar, then make balls of the paſte which will be produced, about the ſize of a pea, and throw them into the ſtanding water; the fiſh that taſte of it will be very ſoon intoxicated, and will riſe, and lie on the ſurface of the water; put your landing net under them directly and take them out; for they will ſoon recover.—It is but neceſſary to know theſe ſecrets, as I am ſure no true lover of angling will ever make uſe of them, only by being acquainted with them, it will enable him to detect poachers.

Of

Of the TROUT.

His Nature, Seaſon, and Growth.

THE Trout is a fiſh highly valued both in this and foreign nations; he is a fiſh of various appellations, according to the idiom of ſeveral countries, but whether all be one and the ſame ſpecies, is to ſome doubtful, but I conceive divers of them are of ſeveral kinds; and ſome Trouts take their denominations from whence they are bred or found, and are appropriated to them, as Rea-Trouts, Corve-Trouts, Uſk-Trouts, &c. for their excellency, arriving, I ſuppoſe, to an eſtimation more than common from the goodneſs or kindlineſs of the water and ſoil of thoſe places; but Trouts generally differ in the colour of their fleſh, (as well as their outward form and complexion) according to the water and ſoil where they are bred: the fleſh of ſome is white, ſome red, and ſome yellowiſh; the two laſt being accounted the beſt; and all three ſorts ſometimes found in one and the ſame river, and in places but a ſmall diſtance from one another.

IN ſome rivers Trouts grow to a large ſize and ſtrange proportion. In the river Kennet, near Newbury, and Hungerford, in Berkſhire, I am informed, are great plenty of excellent large Trouts; ſome ſay the beſt in England; but I have heard it affirmed that the river Stour, near Canterbury, in Kent, breeds as good Trouts as any in the ſouth-eaſt of England. The Trouts in ſome rivers in Derbyſhire, the

Uſk and Wye, in Monmouthſhire, are thought not to be inferior to the beſt in any of our rivers; but for a whole county Hampſhire bears the bell, for its many, great and ſmall, ſwift, ſhallow, clear, lovely, and pleaſant rivers and brooks, abounding with admirable Trouts.

TROUTS principally affect to lie near to, and are found towards the ſources or ſpring-heads of rivers, and are better or worſe, larger or ſmaller, as the nature of the ſoils are on which the water runs; in pure, clear, criſtalline and tranſparent rivers and brooks, whoſe waters run on rocks, ſtones, pebbles, or great gravel and ſands, but eſpecially the latter are experimentally found to be the moſt delicate and beſt Trouts. The Trout in his prime is a princely fiſh; he hath his teeth in his mouth as moſt fiſh of prey have; is of courage bold, of great agility, quickneſs of ſight, and very wary too: for if he chance to eſpy you, he will render your preſent deſign againſt him fruitleſs, and learn you greater caution againſt the next viſit to keep out of his ſight. His outward form is comely, his complexion various, a fiſh of divers colours, beſpangled with delicate ſpots of dark and red; and to eat, hath a delightful taſte, according to the judgment of the niceſt palates.

THE Trout is beſt in ſeaſon about the middle of June, tho' they may be taken from the middle of March till Michaelmas; and are known to be beſt in ſeaſon when ſmall headed and hog-backed, which for the moſt part, is in

in June, and then is equal in goodneſs to any fiſh that lives altogether in freſh water: but in ſome rivers they come ſooner into ſeaſon; and in others go not ſo ſoon out: when at their full growth they decay, dwindle away, and die in a ſhort time, as of a conſumption.

Their Spawning Time and Haunts.

TROUTS, a little before they ſpawn, make up the river, and to admiration, will get thro' mills, weirs, and flood-gates, and up ſuch high and ſwift places as is almoſt incredible, and ſpawn in October and November; but in ſome rivers a little ſooner or later, as Salmon do, contrary to the natural courſe of moſt fiſh, which ſpawn in warmer weather, when the ſun hath rarified the water, and adapted it for their work of generation.

AFTER the Trout have ſpawned, they waſte, grow big-headed, ſick, lean, become inſipid, louſy, and unwholeſome, till ſpring comes to reſtore them to their priſtine health; except ſome of the females that are barren and continue good all winter; and ſuch are to be found in divers rivers, and in this reſpect are compared to the barren doe, that comes in ſeaſon in November, and goes out in February.

IN February, when warmer weather comes in, Trouts leave their winter quarters in the deeps, to ſcour, cleanſe, and recreate themſelves in ſhallower, gravelly ſtreams, and prepare themſelves for their ſummer delights; and as they gather ſtrength advance higher and higher up

the river, till they become ſettled in their ſummer habitations; many of them getting up as high as they can towards the ſpring-heads of rivers, &c. as in the preceding ſection.

In their travels, they ſettle for the moſt part in whirl-pools and holes, into which ſwift ſtreams, ſharps and ſhallows fall, and being ſtrong, feed in the largeſt and ſwifteſt currents, eſpecially in the ſides and deepeſt parts of them, near to their holds; if they be large fiſh they commonly lie under hollow banks, worn ſo by the ſtreams bearing upon them; under roots of trees, boughs and buſhes, and behind great ſtones, blocks and banks that jet forth into the water, on which the ſtreams preſs very hard, cauſing an eddy, or a kind of whirling back of the water; and they delight themſelves in all ſuch places as are ſhaded with any buſh, or covered over with foam, bank or other thing, conſtantly waiting and watching there for the ſtream to bring ſomething down to feed upon, or ſmall fiſh, which they often devour.

In the beginning of the year, when Trouts begin to gather ſtrength, they advance up the river and are very reſtleſs, getting over mill-heads and dams; and when ſettled, are to be found by the ſides of ſwift ſtreams, and at locks, flood-gates, and weirs, &c. for the angler, by experience, finds out their haunts and different ways to angle for them.

The beſt Months for angling for Trout,

ARE March, April, May, and June: you might begin in February if the weather be open and mild; but the chiefeſt months are thoſe before-mentioned: in March, if the weather be clear, the ſun bright, and a clear water, angle for them with a minnow or worm only, mornings and evenings, by the ſides of the moſt ſwift and rapid ſtreams; but if cloudy weather, which is always beſt for angling, and the water in order, what I mean is, low and fit for fly-fiſhing, uſe the march-blue and brown, which you will ſee come regularly on about twelve o'clock, and continue till three; but as the ſeaſon advances, and the weather gets warmer, in April the flies come on an hour ſooner; but the principal time to fly-fiſh is from twelve till two, the flies then come on in great quantities.

Of the GREYLING, *or* HUMBER.

His Names, Nature, Growth, and Seaſon.

THE Greyling and Humber are one and the ſame fiſh, only different countries give him different names: he is much of the nature of a Trout, both as to his food and fleſh; calvers like a Trout, and eats as firm as a Trout, but differs from him in taſte. When firſt taken out of the water he ſmells like violets; and might properly be called the flower of fiſhes.

THE

The Greyling alſo differs from the Trout in his growth, being ſeldom taken above twenty-four inches in length; of a different complexion of fleſh as well as in outward form; for he is hog-back'd, his fins ſtanding upon his back like thoſe of a Perch, and his mouth and belly touch the ground together; has his teeth in his mouth round the upper jaw as fine as a file. When in ſeaſon, which is from September till Chriſtmas, he is outwardly black about the head, gills, and along the back; his belly is of a dark grey dappled colour, with beautiful black ſpots; he is of a delicate ſhape; he is good and palatable all the year; but his principal ſeaſon are the months before-mentioned.

His Spawning Time.

He ſpawns about the latter end of March and beginning of April; at which time he lies in ſharp ſtreams and brews, and is to be taken with an artificial fly; but you ſeldom take a ſpawner; the milter at that time will take a worm freely.

His Haunts.

His Haunts are the ſame as thoſe of a Trout; and he is uſually taken with the ſame baits and after the ſame manner; he will take a fly, worm, or maggot, but the laſt moſt freely: He is very gameſome at the fly, being much ſimpler, and therefore bolder than a Trout: he will riſe two or three times at a fly, if you miſs taking him: he lurks cloſe all the winter, but about the middle

middle of April he appears briſk and frolickſome, ſwimming in the middle of the water, making that his politic region, the better to intercept any thing that paſſes along the river for his nouriſhment.

How to take a Greyling.

His principal baits, that are naturally the produce of the water, are cod-bait, ſtick-bait, ſtone-bait, and great variety of ſmaller inſects that gather huſks, which are compoſed of gravel and ſand, to preſerve them from the coldneſs of the water; theſe inſects produce flies, which the Greyling feed upon both at bottom and top of the water; he is to be taken with a cabbage grub, graſs-hopper, or cod-bait, either natural or artificial: this method of fiſhing is to ſink and draw, as the hook is leaded upon the ſhank, either for the natural or artificial, and might be uſed in ſtanding waters as well as bubbles, curls, or ſtreams, being a very killing way, and will take almoſt every ſort of fiſh: They are to be taken with a fly all the fiſhing ſeaſon; but the beſt months are September, October, and November, if the water be in order for fly-fiſhing; they are then in high ſeaſon, and take a fly very freely: but the moſt certain way to take them at all ſeaſons, is, with gentles or maggots, let the water be muddy or clear: in this method of fiſhing, your tackle muſt be made ſuitable to the condition of the water you fiſh in, and uſe a cork or quill float, inſtead of a running line, letting your ſhot drag on the ground,

ground, throwing in a few maggots now and then for them to feed on; this by experience I know to be the beſt of all bottom baits for river or pool fiſhing; as all kinds of fiſh take them very freely, except ſalmon or pike.

Of the PIKE.

His Names, Nature, Size, and Age.

THE Pike might be properly called the moſt voracious animal of the freſh-water element, whoſe devouring nature has alſo acquired theſe other ſuitable appellations, as freſh-water tyrant, river-wolf, &c. And indeed he lords it over every ſpecies of his aquatical region; not ſparing his own kind. A Pike a foot long has been taken forth of another Pike's gorge; and it is well known, a Pike an ell long will take one half his own length and ſwallow him by degrees as it digeſts; yea, ſuch is his ingluvious nature, that whilſt his mouth is thus ſtopped up he will offer at another prey; and the better to ſuit his rapacious quality, his mouth is by nature advantageouſly formed, opening and ſhutting like the mouth of a wolf or dog: his lower jaw is much longer than his upper, and in ſhape more reſembling the bill of a gooſe, and hath in his mouth divers ſets or rows of venomous teeth, before, on both ſides, above and below, and ſo long, ſharp, and large, that therewith he can both ſnap at, and hold faſt

faſt any thing that he encounters; but for all this, the Pike is a brave fiſh, very firm, palatable and wholeſome to eat, and affords the angler great variety of ſport.

The ſhape and figure of the Pike's body is very long, his back broad, almoſt ſquare when in his beſt ſtate, and throughout equal in breadth to his loweſt fins: his head lean and very bony; his eyes of a golden colour and very quick ſighted; his belly always white, but his back and ſides dark and ſpeckled with yellow, if fat; but the ſides of a lean fiſh are of a greeniſh caſt, his ventricle is large and capacious, his throat ſhort: one ſpawned in a clear, kindly water, where there is good ſtore of feed, will grow to be eighteen inches long in a year, during which time, the firſt year of his age, he is called a Shottrel, the ſecond year a Pickrel, the third a Pike, the fourth a Luce; ſome are of opinion that this fiſh lives not above fifty years, others will affirm that he will live to an hundred years; but at what age a Pike has done growing, is as difficult to prove, as that he lives ſo long. Though the ſtate of every thing that has life be divided into the time of its growth, its conſiſtence, and its decay, and cannot be long permanent in that ſtate; i. e. all things grow up, increaſe, decreaſe, and periſh.

The mighty Luce makes the beſt preſent, as the more honourable diſh at a noble entertainment; yet a male fiſh of the ſize when he becomes a Pike, (at which time he is about three quarters of a yard long) more delights the eater, the

the fleſh not being then ſo coarſe, but much more delicious than the overgrown Pike or Luce.

His Haunts, ſpawning Time, and Seaſon.

THE Pike is a ſolitary fiſh, ſwims by himſelf and lives alone: delights moſt in ſandy, clay, or gravelly bottoms, and in deep ſtill pools near to the ſides of rivers; and thoſe that are bred in ſuch waters, grow fatter and faſter, and eat better than thoſe bred in pools. River Pike delight moſt in the deepeſt, largeſt, and quieteſt parts of the river, the better to ſurpriſe their prey: they lurk among reeds, bull-ruſhes, and water docks, under boughs of trees, and behind buſhes, roots, and ſtumps of trees, or other things that jet forth into the water; therefore you muſt fiſh for them in the haunts before deſcribed; and cloſe to the bank ſide, large angles and holes that are weedy, ſhort, deep, and ſtill, and near to ſome ford, ſhallow, or ſcour, in which generally the young fry abound, are moſt commodious for Pike fiſhing, becauſe in ſuch, Pikes are moſt eaſily and certainly found: and when you ſee any ſtand or place at any water-ſide, in which Pikes are, that are much beaten, or trodden bare by anglers for other fiſh, thoſe may be accounted principal haunts of Pikes; for by beating the ground in ſuch places to catch other fiſh, Pikes are much brought thither to prey upon the ſmall fry that will be ſure to reſort to thoſe places, more than to any other: in ſuch places, the angler muſt expect

expect to have extraordinary ſport with his troll, &c.

Now, becauſe Pike alter and change their habitations with the ſeaſons of the year and weather, I will here briefly, and more particularly, acquaint you with the various times and places of their reſort and abode, eſpecially in rivers.

All the winter months they lie in the deepeſt and moſt obſcure places, very near the ground; and in the latter end of February and beginning of March betake themſelves to the ſcours and other convenient places, where they then leave their ſpawn, and ſpawn no more that year: In April and May they advance higher among the ſhallows, which abound with ſhoals of wanton fry, and near thereunto take up their ſummer apartments, frequently ſallying forth amongſt the ſmall fiſh, ſeeking a more plentiful food, air, and exerciſe, after a ſolitary, hungry, winter life; and, when they have there glutted themſelves with their ſummer delights, in September they begin to retreat towards their winter quarters, if not prevented by floods, or other things that might ſtop their ſo paſſing: and this is their monthly and annual courſe of life, according to heat and cold; but they are beſt in ſeaſon in September and October.

His Baits.

The beſt bait to troll, or catch Pike with, are ſmall trouts, ſamlets, gudgeons, roach, dace, lob-worms, and young frogs; and they

are frequently taken with flies made for that pupoſe.

The beſt Times and Seaſons to troll for Pike.

Forasmuch as ſpawning time, in February and March, is the ſeaſon wherein all thoughts of fiſhing for Pike ought to be laid aſide, not only for the preſervation of the ſpecies, but becauſe they are then out of ſeaſon and worth but little; for which reaſon I would adviſe the angler to forbear the laborious, yet pleaſant exerciſe of trolling, till April, which will make him amends for his friendly forbearance, and ſufficiently recompence his generous ceſſation; not only in the ſalubrity of the air, but the fruition of a pleaſant ſpring, after a cold, dull, and phlegmatic winter; in hearing the airy choir warble out their charming notes, and melodious accents in woods and groves, with variety of other delights: and now the bait, which in ſpawning time was nauſeous to the Pike, is become very deſirable, and will not be forſaken by him; and though they are not yet arrived to their ſummer's fatneſs and firmneſs, they are now become greedy of their prey, afford good ſport, and will make a good diſh.

But I account September and October, the prime months for trolling; not only in reſpect of the then goodneſs of the fiſh, (having had all the ſummer's feed) the temperature of the air, and falling down of the weeds; but alſo for the lowneſs of the water, whereby the fiſh are much eaſier found in their harbours.

If

If you would know more particularly what times of the day are beſt all the year long, for this recreation, take them as followeth; in April, May, June, July, and Auguſt, Pike bite beſt early in the morning, and late in the evening: but in a hot ſun-ſhiny day, fiſh riſe up towards the ſurface of the water, for coolneſs and air; at which time a ſnare is more likely to prove effectual, than the moſt tempting bait; beſides, extremity of heat depraves the appetite, and begets a loathing of food, as well in the watry inhabitants, as thoſe that dwell on the earth: but in September and October they bite well all day long, but beſt about three o'clock; and whenever you troll, let it be in clear water, and the more windy the better, if you can endure it.

How to troll for a Pike.

Now, being fitted with a good trolling rod, and every material for that purpoſe, when you come to the river, meer, or pool, you intend to fiſh in, try the bank ſide on each hand of you; after that caſt your bait as far as the place will allow, directly forwards; afterward, all about where you can, fiſhing cloſe, but not twice in a place; always ſuffering your bait to ſink ſome depth before you pull it up again; but where the water is very foul and weedy, you muſt drop your bait in here and there, in holes, amongſt weeds, under trees and buſhes, and in all other likely places where Pike frequently haunt; and becauſe I find it too tedious to wind

up my line after every throw, upon my tumbrel, I always gather it up round the four fingers of my left hand, to hang upon my hand in ſkains or hanks, of about eight or ten inches long, as I draw it towards me.

When you caſt your bait any conſiderable diſtance from you, let it ſink about mid-water, then draw it gently towards you, not ſnatch it haſtily out of the water, leſt you prevent the Pike's taking the bait: or if he ſhould have hold of it, check him; then ſink it very ſoftly again, and draw it as before; and after this manner do, till a fiſh has taken it, or you have brought it home to you for another throw; and when you only think you have a bite, draw your line ſtraight, but very leiſurely, and feel it: if he be a fiſh, your gentle moving of the bait will make him but the more eager; and perhaps to move it, and gorge it the ſooner; or at leaſt, not to forſake it, as he ſometimes will, if you ſtir it but a little, to make him think your bait ſtrives to get from him.

When you have no bite, and brought your bait home, and almoſt to the top of the water, take it not out haſtily; for many times a Pike will hold on the bait juſt as it is leaving the water, for fear it ſhould quite eſcape him. I have ſometimes had them leap out of the water after the bait; though I have play'd it near the bank ſide a pretty while before I took it up. Perhaps the cauſe of his leaping thus out of the water after the bait, might be owing to his not ſeeing it ſooner, or coming too late to the place; for they

they commonly riſe, or ſhoot at a bait, if near enough, at the firſt or ſecond ſight, if at all, that time.

When you have a bite, and have given it a convenient time, i. e. half a quarter of an hour, or till you ſee your line move in the water, whereby you may pretty ſafely conclude he has paunched the bait, and rangeth about for another prey; draw a ſtraight line, and hook him with a ſmall jerk, and then make your paſtime as you can. If you find him a large one, give him ſcope enough, if the place be not very foul, till you find him better pacified, by letting him go with a ſtiff line, and drawing him in again; but hold him not to it, leſt he break hold, or tear out his own ſtomach, (which is but tender) rather than become your captive: when you have brought him to the bank ſide, either take him up with a landing hook, or net, or for want of them, clap your finger and thumb into his eyes: which is the ſureſt and ſafeſt hold with the hand.

Sometimes a Pike will take your bait, and preſently leave it; and after he has left it will come again and carry it to his hold, and play with it, and at laſt leave it: and at another time, a Pike that takes your bait moſt greedily at firſt, and carries it fartheſt, will, notwithſtanding, forſake it; therefore if you meet with ſuch fiſh, make uſe of the ſnap; always obſerving not to uſe a large bait with a ſmall hook, nor a ſmall bait with a large hook; but let your baits be in proportion to your hook.

To take them with live Leiger Baits.

THE moſt certain, ſure, and tempting way to take Pike, at leiger, is with live baits; which is a bait fixed to a certain place, and to keep your baits alive the longer, whether it be a fiſh or frog, obſerve this method; if it be a fiſh, as roach, dace, ſamlets, ſmall trout, or gudgeon, which are all good baits; then make an inciſion upon the ſide of the fiſh, from the vent near to the head; then with a probe open the paſſage between the ſkin and the body, for the more eaſy entrance of the wire; now having wound your line on your fork, and placed it in the ſlit, ſet off the bait alive, where you would have it reſt, that the bait may hang about mid-water: your line for this purpoſe ſhould be about ten or twelve yards long, that when the Pike comes he may the more eaſy run off to his hold in order to pouch the bait.

To take them by ſnaring or haltering.

THE chief months of the year are May, June, and July, in hot ſun-ſhiny days, and in the hotteſt time of the day, when moſt glowy, they then appearing towards the top of the water; but you muſt go warily to work, and not appear too openly, or with much motion; when you have ſpied a Pike, fix your eye ſtedfaſtly upon him, without looking off him, which will make him lie the ſtiller; for unleſs he is well ſettled in his ſtation, a ſmall diſturbance will ſometimes move him, and make him fly from you; therefore when you look for him, have your

your ſnare with you ready fixt: after this manner, take a ſtrait, tough, taper pole, alſo ſtiff and ſtrong enough, but not too heavy, of about four yards long, faſten to the ſmaller end a piece of hard twiſted whipcord, of about a yard in length, more or leſs, according to the depth of water; and the other end of the whipcord faſtened to a well nailed braſs wire, made into a nooſe or ſnare, like a hair gin; or let it be all of well-nealed wire, and no cord: having opened the nooſe wide enough to ſlip over his head without touching him, let it down with your pole into the water, even with the Pike, two or three yards before him, and guide it very gently towards his head, fixing your eye ſtill on the fiſh, till you have put the ſnare over his head and gill fins, but no further; then immediately with a ſtrong jerk, upright, hoiſt him amain to land: the keeping your eye as much as you can on the Pike will cauſe him to look on you the more, and mind the gin the leſs: take care that your pole be not brittle or rotten.

THUS you may alſo halter other fiſhes if you go circumſpectly to work; as trouts, both at mid-water and bottom, if you can find them lie conveniently for your purpoſe: and at bottom eels.

Of the PERCH.

THE Perch is a fiſh of dark and changeable colour, he is hog-backed; a fiſh of prey; hath teeth in his mouth; is bold and adventurous,

turous, and ſo ravenous that he ſpares none he can encounter; yea, often ſeizes his own kind; but, at times, are ſo ſociable, that they ſwim in bodies together; he is armed with a coat of mail, and ſharp weapons, offenſive and defenſive; having no leſs than a double guard of pikes to ſecure him againſt his enemies; and though a very ſlow grower, yet is long-lived, will arrive to a conſiderable magnitude, having been taken twenty-ſeven inches long, and deep withal: his fleſh is very grateful to the ſtomach, is wholeſome and nutritive, eſpecially the river Perch.

His Haunts.

THE Perch loves a ſandy, clayey ſoil, deep water, in holes by the ſides of, or nigh unto, little ſtreams, into which ſmall gliding, gentle currents fall; under hollow banks, in creeks or large ditches, joining to large rivers; as alſo in ponds that are fed by ſome river, rivulet, or ſpring.

His ſpawning, biting Times, and Baits.

THE Perch ſpawn about the latter end of February, or beginning of March, and no more that year. The beſt months to angle for them are, April, May, and June; though they will bite pretty well till October; in cloudy, windy weather, will bite all day long, but beſt in mornings and evenings. They generally ſwim in ſhoals: when in humour for biting, you may take a great many at one fiſhing. The beſt baits for

for Perch are minnows, red worms, maggots, or waſp-grubs. When you fiſh for him with a minnow, let it be a live one; ſtick the hook in his back fin, letting him ſwim in mid-water, ſtill keeping him about that depth, with a cork float, which ſhould not be very ſmall: let your line be leaded within a foot of your hook, to prevent the bait coming to the top of the water, which he will when tired: when you have a bite give him time enough to pouch the bait. When you angle for them with worms, bait the river, pool, or pond you intend to fiſh, with ſtewed malt, freſh grains, and log-worms, cut in pieces, for three or four times before you angle for them; by which means it draws the fiſh together, and they feed on it undiſturbed; for which reaſon, when you fiſh for them you might depend of having ſucceſs: when you fiſh for them with maggots or waſp-grubs, which are the beſt of all ground baits, bait the place you intend to fiſh in, as mentioned before, with maggots, or waſp-grubs, only the ſort you intend to fiſh with; if with a maggot, your hook ſhould be No. 7; your line ſtrong and fine, throwing in a few maggots now and then to keep the fiſh together. If you fiſh with a waſp-grub, uſe the ſame method as with a maggot, only this difference, your hook ſhould be No. 5, or 6. There are many more baits that will take Perch, but the laſt-mentioned are the beſt. Sometimes they are to be taken with a fly under water.

Of

Of the TENCH.

His Nature and Virtue.

THE Tench is a leather-mouthed fiſh; his colour being as it were, tinged or died of a greeniſh hue; his ſcales very ſmall, fine, and ſmooth; his fins large, red circles about his eyes, and little barbs at the corners of his mouth, ſlimy like an eel, and ſomething like eels in taſte. They are of very good nouriſhment, eſpecially ſuch as are bred in pools or ponds, that are not very muddy: he has a natural balſam on his ſkin, and ſo medicinal to other fiſh, that he is ſtyled phyſician to all his co-inhabitants in his watery region: and for his balſamic virtue, is ſo great a favourite to the Pike, that he would ſooner prey upon his own kind, than upon that ſpecies, but when hungry will not ſpare him.

His Haunts.

THE Tench is obſerved to delight more in ponds or pits, than rivers; and loves to feed in deep ſtill waters, covered with weeds or batter-docks; he thrives beſt in muddy ſoil, and frequents only the moſt deep and quiet places in rivers.

Their

Their ſpawning Time and Seaſon.

TENCH generally ſpawn about the latter end of June, or beginning of July: in ſome ponds they breed much, but thrive little; and in others grow large, but breed little. They are beſt in ſeaſon from the latter end of September till the middle of May.

Their biting Time and Baits.

TENCH bite beſt in April and May, in warm, cloudy or miſling weather, particularly if there is a fine breeze of wind from ſouth, or weſt, as they bite more freely at bottom, than in calm, hot ſun-ſhiny weather: the reaſon why they bite the better is, becauſe the wind cooling the water, makes the fiſh the more hungry; and as the toſſing of the waves emboldens them the more to range about for food, they then do not ſo eaſily diſcern any thing that may annoy them. The beſt baits to take them are, well-ſcoured worms, waſp-grubs, and maggots: and when you angle for them in river, pool, or pond, bait the place for three or four times with the ſame ſort of baits you intend to fiſh with. The ſize of your hook for maggots in rivers, ſhould be No. 6; in pools, or ponds, No. 5; for waſp-grubs, the ſame ſize; for worms, No. 2, or 3: your line ſhould be ſtrong and fine; the bottom ſhould be about two yards of fine gut or graſs, with a ſwan or gooſe-quil float: the ſame tackle will ſerve for Carp or Perch.

Of

Of the CARP.

THE Carp is a great breeder, and full of cunning; and for its ſubtilty, has alſo acquired the names of freſh water fox, and grand politician of the watry element. He is a fat, ſweet, and ſoft fiſh, and his fleſh very nouriſhing: he is leather-mouthed, has no teeth, nor tongue; but nature has given him a fleſhy palate to reliſh his food: he is covered with very large broad ſcales; is of a yellowiſh colour; has ſmall barbs, or wattles, at the ſides of his mouth; and his head is eſteemed the beſt part of him: and indeed, the Carp is ſo very wary, ſhy, and timorous a fiſh, that to take him, eſpecially in rivers, and in ſome ponds too, by angling, the angler had need to be indued with admirable patience. River Carp are much better than any bred in ponds or other ſtanding waters; and ſome of them are purer than others, according to the climate, ſoil, and water they are bred in.—Of pond Carp, thoſe that are fed in ponds of ſandy, or mud bottoms, with ſtreams, rills, or ſprings, are much better than ſuch as are bred in ſtill, ſtanding waters, filled only by rain. The males are much better than the females, and the yellow much better than the white.

Their

Their ſpawning Time.

CARP generally ſpawn in May; and when a female Carp goes to caſt her ſpawn, three or four milters follow her, ſhe diſſembling a coyneſs, they force her through weeds and flags, where ſhe drops her ſpawn, which ſticks faſt to the weeds; then the males come and ſhed their milk upon it; and all the ſpawn that is touched with the milk of the males, in a ſhort time become living fiſh, and none elſe. Carp begin to ſpawn at three years old, and ſpawn divers times in the year, but chiefly in May; for you ſeldom take a male Carp without a milt: or a female without much ſpawn.

THE numerous increaſe of Carp in ſome ponds, where they like, is wonderful; breeding not only to the over-ſtocking the ponds, but to ſtarving themſelves, if not prevented by ſtoring other waters with them: they would be ſtill more numerous, was it not for the great quantity of eels that ſome ponds abound with, which devour their ſpawn, let them hide it ever ſo ſecret. Carp, in rivers, ſpawn but once a year; and only in thoſe rivers that are of very gentle motion, deep and weedy; and ſeldom breed in old ponds that are full of mud; nor in very cold ponds, or pits; but in ſuch as are warm, and have marly, ſandy, or clayey bottoms; in new ponds, and ſuch as have been cleanſed, and laid dry a winter ſeaſon.

Their Age, Size, and Seaſon.

CARP will live to a great age: but to account for the number of years they will live, is uncertain; the older the better they be; and will grow to a very great ſize: I myſelf have ſeen them thirty pounds a brace; and am informed they will grow to a much larger bigneſs. They will live as long out of their proper element as any freſh-water fiſh, and endure carriage a great way alive, if properly managed.

THEY are beſt in ſeaſon in March and April, being then fatteſt, and of a far more delightful reliſh than at any other time of the year.

Their Haunts.

RIVER Carp frequent, for the moſt part, the broadeſt and deepeſt, ſtilleſt, and quieteſt places in rivers; eſpecially if the bottom be muddy, ſandy, clayey, graſſy or weedy; the ſhallower, and narrower parts of the river being then too cold, and too ſwift for them.

ABOUT the middle of April, pond Carp leave the deepeſt and ſtilleſt part, and reſort to the ſhallower parts of the pond, amongſt the weeds for freſh food, ſhade, and the conveniency of rubbing and ſcouring themſelves, to looſen their bellies for ſpawning; and are then to be caught in, or near to, ſuch places.

Their biting Times and Baits.

THE beſt baits to take Carp, are well-ſcoured red worms, maggots, waſp-grubs, or the green worms bred upon the boughs of trees and buſhes;

buſhes; which laſt are very natural baits, frequently dropping in the water, which makes the fiſh reſort to ſuch places, both for food and ſhelter. There are many ſorts of baits to take Carp, but the above-mentioned excel any for taking of Carp, Tench, or Perch: obſerve to bait the places you intend to fiſh, in the ſame manner as for Tench:—Your tackle the ſame, only this difference, fiſh more upon the bottom; the line and lead being not ſo eaſily diſcovered as at mid-water: the Carp being ſo ſhy and timorous a fiſh, are more difficult to take than any fiſh that ſwims in freſh water, eſpecially in rivers.

Obſervations on the breeding of Carp.

GENTLEMEN that are deſirous to breed large Carp, muſt obſerve the following directions: let the pools or ponds they intend to ſtock, be cleanſed, mudded, and left dry for about twelve months, having then your ſtore Carp ready to ſtock the pool or pond you intend ſtocking, ſort the males from the females, putting each ſort ſeparate into the different waters you intend ſtocking: let your ſtores be bred from large Carp, not leſs than ten or twelve pounds a brace, but as much larger as poſſible: by this means you may depend on having large Carp. The ſtores bred from large Carp will grow, if the water and ſoil agree with them, more in ten years, than the other will in fifty. The ſmall dwarf ſort begin to breed at three years old, and breed ſo amazingly, that they

never can nor will grow to a larger ſize, change them into what waters you will. Now to have ſtores bred from large Carp, the following method muſt be obſerved: take three brace of male Carp, and three of female, of the largeſt ſize, and put them together, alone from any other fiſh, into your breeding pool or pond, which ſhould be kept only for that purpoſe: the Carp ſo turned in will breed a ſufficient quantity to ſtock all the pools any gentleman might have, in ſucceſſion, one year after another; obſerving the directions as above, to ſort the males and females, and to draw the pool, ſo ſtocked with them, once in three years, to ſee how they thrive, and whether the water and ſoil agree with them.

CHAPTER the firſt of Carp, will inform you what kind of water and ſoil beſt agree with them.

IN pools, where the water cannot be drained off, and are over-run with this ſmall baſtard ſort of Carp, which prevent the right ſort from growing to a large ſize, owing to this ſmall ſort devouring what ſhould ſupport the others, and make them thrive; for which reaſon I would adviſe three or four brace of ſmall Pike to be turned in, more or leſs, according to the largeneſs of the water, which will ſoon regulate your pool, and cauſe the largeſt ſort of Carp to grow amazingly: This baſtard ſort of Carp being of no other uſe but only to feed Pike. In a few years after, drawing your pool, you will find the real ſort of Carp throve very much; and the

the Pike, by feeding on the ſmall ones, grown to a large ſize.

GENTLEMEN ſometimes are at a great expence in ſtocking their pools; when ſo done, they expect, in a few years, to have fiſh fit for their table, but they are generally diſappointed; in the firſt place they may be the baſtard race, which will never grow to any ſize; and if the right ſort, bred from large fiſh, and not ſeparated, the males from the females, and put into a kind water, will be a ſecond diſappointment; but if managed, as I have mentioned before, in my obſervations on the breeding of Carp, you will find it will anſwer every expectation.

Of the BREAM.

His Nature and Kind.

THE Bream is a broad fiſh, with a ſmall head, big eyes, and a ſmall leather-mouth, but no teeth; the palate of him is ſoft and fleſhy, like that of a Carp, and very much reſembling it in form, being very broad, with a forked tail: he is covered with curious network ſcales; his fleſh is ſoft and clammy; the beſt parts of him for eating are his belly and head. His fleſh is reckoned of better nouriſhment than that of a Carp, and of eaſy digeſ-

tion: Bream grow very ſlowly, yet to a large ſize, and are great breeders; therefore ſhould be put into great waters only, for it is obſerved the milter has two large milts, and the ſpawner two large bags of ſpawn: therefore ſhould be put in waters only with fiſh of prey.

Their ſpawning Time, and Seaſon.

Bream ſpawn the latter end of June, and beginning of July; and are beſt in ſeaſon in May; though ſome think them beſt in September, having then had their ſummer's feed. Some will affirm that Bream and Roach will mix their eggs and milt together, which is a miſtaken notion; for the Roach ſpawn the beginning of May, and the Bream not before the latter end of June, or beginning of July.

Their Haunts.

Bream ſwim in ſhoals or great companies, delighting moſt in gentle, ſoft ſtreams, ſandy or clayey bottoms, in the deepeſt, broadeſt, and middle parts of ponds; or in the deepeſt, broadeſt, and moſt quiet places in rivers, near weeds.

How, and with what Baits to take the Bream.

There are many ſorts of bait to take Bream, viz. Well-ſcoured red worms, maggots, waſp-grubs, flag, or ſeg-worms, which are found at the roots of ſegs in watery places; likewiſe graſs-hoppers, cabbage-grubs, and cod-baits; but I think the well-ſcoured red worm the beſt for taking theſe fiſh. The river, pool, or pond, you

you intend to fiſh in, muſt be baited for three or four days after this manner; take a peck of malt, boil it in a kettle, or rather ſtew it, then ſtrain it through a linen bag, and when the malt is almoſt cold, repair to the water you intend to fiſh, baiting the places with part of the ſtewed malt, for three or four times; then having your tackle ready, after this manner; take two or three long angling rods, your lines ſtrong and fine; the bottom ſhould be about two yards and a half of good, ſtrong, round gut, or graſs; uſe large ſwan or gooſe quil floats on your lines: your hooks, No. 4. Let your lead, to poiſe the float, be about a foot from the hook: being thus prepared, the beſt times to angle for them, in the hot ſummer months, is from three o'clock in the morning, till eight or nine in the forenoon; and from five in the afternoon, as long as you can ſee: if the place is convenient you fiſh in, and make uſe of two or three rods, let them be diſtant from each other about eight or ten yards, letting your bait juſt drag upon the bottom, keeping out of ſight as much as you can; throwing in now and then, a little of your ground bait, to keep them together: when you have a bite, ſtrike not too haſtily, till the float is taken out of ſight; then ſtrike gently, keeping your rod to a proper bend, that it might tire him a little; for if both pull together, you are ſure to loſe the fiſh; either line, hook, or hold, will certainly break: but I would adviſe to make uſe of a reel upon your rods, for Carp, Barbel, and Bream; the length

length of line kills the fiſh with eaſe, and makes the angler excellent ſport.

Of the FLOUNDER.

His Nature and Qualities.

THE Flounder is a leather-mouthed fiſh, without ſcales, and of good nouriſhment; they ſtrengthen the ſtomach, beget an appetite, and are well taſted; being originally a ſea-fiſh, which wanders very far into freſh rivers, and there dwells, and loſes himſelf. They will grow to be almoſt a foot long, and broad in proportion. The beſt Flounders have red ſpots.

His Haunts.

THE Flounder likes a gravelly, ſandy bottom, and deep, gentle ſtreams, near the banks, or in gentle ſtreams that are a little brackiſh; and are to be found near ſluices, and flood-gates, and cloſe to the banks.

Their biting Times and Baits.

THE beſt baits for Flounders, are marſh-worms, dunghill red-worms, or gilt-tails, well ſcoured: Your line muſt be fine; your hook, No. 6, or 7; your lead muſt lie upon the bottom; and, when he bites, move your bait a little, very gently, which will make him more eager: He is very wary, and ſo cunning, that he frequently ſucks the bait off your hook, and

and leaves it bare; and if he perceives the hook before he ſwallows it, will not take it at all. They will bite all day long, from March till the latter end of July, and but very little after that.

Of the BARBEL.

THE Barbel, is ſo called, from his barb, or wattle at his mouth: He is a leather-mouthed fiſh, having his teeth in his throat; grows to a large ſize, is very ſtrong, active, ſubtle and ſullen; that rather than be taken, will, if poſſible, break your rod, line, hook, or hold: He hath moſt curious ſmall ſcales, ſo exquiſitely formed, that therein you may ſee nature's perfection. He is of comely ſhape and complexion, and pleaſant to look on; but is reckoned a coarſe fiſh, though a very nice feeder. They ſwim together in ſhoals, afford the angler excellent ſport; and the male is accounted much better than the female.

Their Haunts.

THE Barbel delights moſtly in the ſwifteſt currents, and in the ſummer frequents the ſhalloweſt and ſharpeſt ſtreams, chiefly where the bottom is uneven, the better to ſecure himſelf againſt the ſwiftneſs and violence of the ſtream; lurking under weeds, feeding, for the moſt part, in gravelly and ſandy bottoms, rooting and digging in the gravel, or ſands, with

with his noſe, like a hog, ſeeking for watery inſects to feed on: He is to be found in deep ſwift waters, under bridges, flood-gates, and weirs, where he takes up his ſtation; the current being ever ſo ſtrong, cannot force him from the place he contends for. At the approach of winter he forſakes the ſwift ſtreams, and ſhallow waters, and retires into the more deep and quiet places of the river.

Their ſpawning Time and Seaſon.

BARBEL ſpawn about the beginning of May, being then at the worſt: their ſpawn being then eaten, is very dangerous, for it will purge the eater, both upwards and downwards, even to the hazard of his life. They hide their eggs in holes dug in the gravel, covering them over with gravel and ſand, much like unto the Salmon. Their prime ſeaſon is Auguſt and September.

Their biting Times and Baits.

THE Barbel bites beſt in the ſummer months, from ſun-riſe till about nine o'clock in the forenoon; and from five in the afternoon as long as you can ſee. He is a very nice feeder, and curious in his baits; they muſt be clean and ſweet, the worms well ſcoured, not kept in ſour or muſty moſs: He will take a well-ſcoured lob-worm more freely than any bait I know of: The places you intend to angle for him, ſhould be baited three or four times with large worms, cut in pieces; he is very wary, and

and cunning, for he will often nibble and ſuck off your bait cloſe to the hook, yet will avoid letting it come into his mouth. He is a fiſh that affords the angler fine ſport, being ſo luſty and ſtrong, as frequently to endanger the breaking the rod, line, or hook, by violently running his head towards any covert, hole, bank, or other place, for ſhelter; then ſtriking with his tail to break the line, which he often does. The ſame ſort of tackle will do for the Barbel, as does for the Carp and Bream.

Of the CHUB, CHEVIN, *or* BOTLING.

THE Chub is ſo called from his thick chubbed make, and is the ſame fiſh as the Chevin or Botling: He is a leather-mouthed fiſh, and a fiſh of prey; having his teeth in his throat; grows to a large ſize; is very ſhy, timorous and of great ſtrength; but if you give him a turn he is ſluggiſh, and eaſily overcome. His ſpawn is good, but his head is the beſt part of him, but if dreſt when freſh in the winter months, which being his prime ſeaſon, he eats very well.

Their ſpawning Time and Seaſon.

CHUB ſpawn the beginning of May; come in ſeaſon in Auguſt, and continue good till March; are

are in their prime all winter, being then fatteſt, and not ſo bony as in the ſummer.

Their Haunts.

CHUB delight moſtly in large deep rivers, and ſtreams, and in the angles or deep holes of rivers that are ſhady; in the hot months they are to be found in or near to fords where cattle come to cool and ſhade themſelves, feeding on the dung they then let fall into the water: They thrive well in ponds into which any ſtream or rivulet runs.

Their biting Times and Baits.

CHUB, at any time of the year, will bite all day long: The beſt baits to take them at bottom, are maggots, waſp-grubs, or beef's-brains; but the laſt the beſt. Your line for this purpoſe muſt be ſtrong and fine; the bottom about two yards of good round, ſtrong, gut or graſs; the hook, No. 2, or 3; a ſwan or gooſe-quil float, with a cork; your bait muſt be within an inch of the bottom: You muſt bait thoſe places you intend to fiſh, about an hour beforehand, with the brains cut in ſmall pieces; that you put on your hook about the ſize of a nutmeg. When the fiſh bites, you muſt ſtrike immediately; if you miſs the fiſh you are ſure to looſe your bait, being ſo very tender: This is the beſt bait that can be uſed for Chub, and by frequent uſing never fails of ſucceſs: The waſp-grub is the ſecond beſt bait; and maggots are very good baits: They are to be taken by bobbing

bobbing, or dabbing, in the hot ſummer months, with almoſt any fly you can catch; be ſure to keep out of his ſight, otherwiſe your attempt is in vain, being a very ſhy and timorous fiſh: He is to be taken with a cabbage-grub, graſs-hopper, and cod-bait, either nrtural or artificial; which are all excellent baits, and will take almoſt all ſorts of fiſh, in all kinds of water; in deep and ſtill waters, as well as in bubbles, curls, and ſtreams: And what makes this method of fiſhing more pleaſing is, that you are always in exerciſe: It would be too tedious to enumerate the different ſorts of baits Chub will take; but the beſt are what I have before mentioned.

Of the DACE.

THE Dace is one and the ſame fiſh with the Dare; he is a leather-mouthed fiſh, has no teeth; is of little cunning, therefore eaſily taken, with proper baits: He is not much valued, being very bony; his fleſh ſoft, and indifferently well-taſted, ſomewhat wateriſh, tho' of good nouriſhment; ſeldom grows to a pound in weight; is of a brighter colour than a Chub, but not ſo thick; nor has he red fins like a Roach, but is much like unto it in taſte.

Their Haunts.

DACE delight chiefly in the deepeſt and ſtilleſt places in the river, in ſandy and gravelly bot-

toms; and in all rivers and brooks where there is no ſhade, being great lovers of the ſun.

Their ſpawning Time and Seaſon.

DACE ſpawn about the middle of March, come in ſeaſon in September; but the prime months are November, December, and January.

Their biting Time and Baits.

DACE bite at any time of the day, from ſun-riſe till ſun-ſet; but beſt in the clearing of the water, after it has been diſturbed with rain; at maggots, waſp-grubs, ſmall red worms, and paſte; all which baits are certain to take them, but maggots are the beſt. Your tackle for this purpoſe cannot be too fine; the bottom about two yards and a half of ſingle hair; your hook No. 9; the ſhot about a foot from the hook, with a ſmall float upon your line: By baiting the places with a few maggots a little time before yon fiſh, you may always depend on having diverſion. In a clear water they are to be taken with a fly, particularly the black-gnat, and the red and black ants. There are many more baits to take Dace, but the before-mentioned are the beſt.

Of the ROACH.

THE Roach is a leather-mouthed fiſh; has no teeth: His eyes, fins, and tail are of a red colour, and is a very bony fiſh; and, for his

his ſimplicity, is ſtyled the freſh-water ſheep. They will grow to be about eight or ten inches long, and eat very well, eſpecially their ſpawn, being a healthful fiſh, not ſubject to any diſeaſe; from whence comes the proverb, "*as ſound as a Roach.*"

Their Haunts, ſpawning Time and Seaſon.

THEIR haunts are much the ſame as the Dace, loving the deepeſt and ſtilleſt waters: They ſpawn about the middle of May; come in ſeaſon about Michaelmas, and are very good till the latter end of March.

Their biting Times and Baits.

ROACH bite beſt in the ſummer ſeaſon, from about four in the morning, till nine in the forenoon; and from four in the afternoon, till ſun-ſet: In the winter they will bite from ten in the forenoon, till three in the afternoon, at any of the Dace baits; your tackle the ſame, and to be fiſhed for after the ſame manner, obſerving to let your ſhot drag on the bottom; for they will take it more freely off the bottom than ſhallower. There is another excellent bait for Roach in the winter, which is a white worm with a red head, about the ſize of a cod-bait, to be found after the plough-tail, upon heath or ſandy ground, or turning up the greenſwerd of freſh land: I myſelf have taken with this bait, in the river Trent, thirty pounds weight in a morning; the Roach in that river run to a large ſize; from three quarters of a pound, to a pound and half in weight:

When you uſe this bait, bait the places you intend to fiſh, with ſtewed malt, or freſh grains. This is the beſt bait for Roach and Dace known of, except maggots or gentles.

Of the GUDGEON.

His Nature and Kind.

THE Gudgeon is a leather-mouthed fiſh; has no teeth; feeds cloſe to the ground, and ſeldon grows to be above five or ſix inches long: he is a round bodied fiſh, and of an excellent ſhape; his ſides beautified with curious black ſpots; his back of a ſad dapple grey; the brighteſt coloured are accounted the beſt: He is a very wholeſome fiſh; grateful to the palate, of eaſy digeſtion, and very nouriſhing: A fiſh reputed almoſt equal in goodneſs to the delicate melt.

Their Haunts and ſpawning Time.

THE Gudgeon delights moſtly in large rivers, or brooks that have gravelly and ſandy bottoms, and in gentle, ſlow, running ſtreams: In the ſummer months they lie in the ſhallow waters; but from about Michaelmas till April, they are to be found in the deepeſt parts of the water; and ſpawn the beginning of May.

Their biting Times and Baits.

GUDGEONS will bite any time of the day, from ſun-riſe till ſun-ſet; but particularly in warm

warm gloomy weather, at ſmall red worms, or maggots; but worms are the beſt. When you have found their haunts, bait the places with maggots, or worms, chopped; throwing in a little now and then to keep them together: If the water be clear, endeavour to make it muddy in the place you fiſh, which will make them take your bait the more eagerly, and your line and hook will not ſo eaſily be diſcovered. Your line muſt be fine; your hook, No. 7, or 8, letting your bait drag on the bottom, which will make them take it the more freely. The Perch and Gudgeon are excellent fiſh to enter young anglers.

Of the RUFF, *or* POPE.

THE Ruff is a fiſh to be found only in few rivers; there are plenty of them to be found in the river Yare, in Norfolk; and in ſeveral rivers in Oxfordſhire; and in the Teme, which empties itſelf into the Severn, near Worceſter. The Ruff is ſomewhat like the Perch, but hath his prickles more diſperſedly over his body; he is bony-mouthed, and hath his teeth in his mouth; his eyes are large, and dark coloured, brown on the upper ſide, and on the lower ſomewhat yellowiſh; the ſight large and black, hath a black liſt all along his back, and ſpotted all over the tail and fins with black ſpecks, and is much of the length of a middle ſized Gudgeon, ſeldom taken above ſix inches long: He

is a very wholeſome fiſh to eat, and is eſteemed better meat than Perch of that ſize. He is called a Ruff, from his prickles and the roughneſs of his ſkin: When he is angry, his fins ſtand up ſtiff, but when appeaſed they fall flat again; ſo that his defenſive weapons make him bid defiance to all the freſh-water regiment.

Their Haunts and ſpawning Time.

THE Ruff is a river fiſh, and delights for the moſt part, in deep rivers that have gravelly or ſandy bottoms; and in kindly rivers will grow very fat: They ſpawn about the middle of April.

Their biting Times and Baits.

THE Ruff will bite all day long in the ſummer in cool and cloudy weather, at gilt-tails, or dunghill red worms: You may fiſh for them with the ſame tackle as for Gudgeons: They ſwim together in great companies; and are excellent fiſh to enter young anglers, frequently taking fifty or a hundred at one ſtand.

Of the BLEAK.

THE Bleak is a ſmall fiſh, ſeldom exceeding three inches long; is of a bright whitiſh colour, the back of a greeniſh caſt, and his belly of a more gloſſy white: He is alſo termed the freſh water ſprat; much reſembling the ſea ſprat in ſize, ſhape, and complexion: By ſome he

he is called the River Swallow, from his continual motion and dexterity in catching flies and ſmall inſects, that float upon the ſurface of the water. He is a pleaſant eating fiſh, if dreſſed ſoon after taken.

How and with what Baits to angle for them.

THE Bleak is to be angled for at mid-water, with a line, and about five or ſix ſmall hooks, faſtened at the diſtance of about ſix inches, one above another; baiting your hooks with ſmall maggots, by which means you may take three, four, five, or ſix, at a time: they are to be taken by whipping for them, with two or three ſmall gnats upon your line; which, in a ſummer evening, affords the angler very pretty ſport.

Of the CHARR *and the* GUINIAD.

IN Winder Meer, in the county of Weſtmoreland, are caught the Charr, a very ſingular ſort of fiſh, to be found no where elſe in England or Ireland; but are ſaid to be in two lakes, at Snowden in Wales. There are Trouts caught in a ſmall but rapid river, called the Pettrel, that runs near Carliſle, in the adjoining county of Cumberland, about the ſame ſize with the Charr, that is from a foot to eighteen inches, which are as fine in colour, and when potted are not eaſily diſtinguiſhed in taſte, inſomuch as very frequently to be ſent to London, and

and ſold as Charr. They take the Mayfly of both ſorts, and all the other flies in their ſeaſon. This river falls into the main river Eden, about a mile north-eaſt of the city of Carliſle, and about the ſame diſtance from the city, weſtward. The river Gauda falls into the ſame. The Trouts in this river are much larger than thoſe in the Pettrel, in which laſt is a peculiar ſpecies of Trout, called the Whiting or White Trout; has no ſpots, but is of a beautiful colour, and his fleſh is as red as the Salmon: He never exceeds twenty inches in length: He will take moſt ſorts of flies, but particularly the red and golden palmers. In this river, as well as in the main riven Eden, is a Trout called the Brandling, clouded on the back like a Mackrel, but never grows to above ſeven or eight inches: They ſeem very much to reſemble a ſort of fiſh called Gravel-laſt-ſprings, which are to be found in the rivers Wye and Severn. There is a river called Duffield Beck, in the Eaſt Riding of Yorkſhire, which produces the fineſt Trouts, for ſize, quantity, and quality, of any river I have heard of; being ſeldom taken leſs than two pounds, and often five or ſix.

The river Dee, which riſes in Merionethſhire, runs through Pemble Meere, in Cheſhire, which is a large water, and abounds with the kind of fiſh called Guiniad, as the river Dee does with Salmon; and yet it is obſervable that there are never any Salmon caught in the Meere, nor any Guiniad in the Dee.

Of

Of the EEL.

THERE are four kinds of Eels, all formed without diſtinction of ſex, of various matter, and multiply exceedingly: Firſt, the ſilver Eel, he is blackiſh on the back, and ſilver bellied: By generation, her young coming from her ſmaller than common dreſſing pins. Naturaliſts will affirm the other three ſorts are bred in the following manner; 2*d*, The black Eel, whoſe head is flatter, broader, and bigger than any of the other kinds, and is bred, not by coupling, or venereal act, but out of a matter terrene, very ſoft, and fat, which lies, as it were, in beds of mud and ſlime, &c. where ſuch matter aboundeth, prepared and adapted for their generation; into which the ſpirit of the univerſe falling, by the ſun's heat, they are formed in a few days. 3*d*, Eels with red fins, coming from the corruption of their old age. 4*th*. The greeniſh Eel, being of a yellowiſh green on the back, white bellied and ſmall headed; bred of a dew that falls on the banks of rivers and ponds, in May and June, turned by the ſun's generative heat into Eels; and are generally called Griggs or Elvers. My opinion is, that theſe Griggs or Elvers are bred in the ſalt water, and come up with the tide into freſh rivers, at particular ſeaſons of the year, and are then taken

taken in great quantities. The laſt-mentioned three ſorts of Eels are of the viviparous kind, like unto the ſilver Eel, not being bred from ſpawn or eggs, as other fiſh are. All theſe ſorts of Eels are frequently eaten amongſt us, and do not only pleaſe the palate, but likewiſe nouriſh the body; and if not eaten to exceſs, are no ways injurious to mankind. Eels, of all other fiſh, have this extraordinary property, never to be out of ſeaſon, though beſt in May, June, and July: They ſeldom ſwim up the river, but always down, eſpecially when moved by thunder and great rains; and if not intercepted in their courſe, do, as it were, by natural inſtinct, find a way to the ſea, from whence they never return; but love the ſalt water, thrive in it, and grow therein to a vaſt ſize: From this, their natural progreſs, it is obſerved that theſe Eels taken at mills, if not ſo ſtopped, would haſten to the ſea.

Eels keep not company with other fiſh, and being tender and chill, cannot endure the cold like other fiſh, and therefore generally lay themſelves up in mud, or moiſt earth, all the cold months in the year, both in rivers and ponds, the better to defend themſelves from the ſeverity of the winter, and there live without feeding upon any thing; ſo that few of them are then taken, unleſs by ſpearing. In the ſummer months they are taken many ways, which I ſhall mention hereafter.

Their

Their Haunts.

EELS, for the moſt part, hide themſelves in the day-time in weeds, under roots, ſtumps of trees, under banks, in holes and clefts of the earth; and in the plain mud, with their heads only out, watching for a prey; under great ſtones, old timber, boards and planks, about flood-gates, weirs, bridges, old mills, &c.

How and with what Baits to take an Eel.

THERE are many ſorts of baits for taking of Eels, but the beſt I know of are the lob-worm, loach, minnow, bull-head, or miller's-thumb: The beſt ſeaſon for taking Eels is in the hot months, i. e. from May till the latter end of Auguſt; and to take a quantity of them, in river or pool, obſerve the following method; get a long line of Bedlam-twine, ſuch a length as you think will reach acroſs the river or pond you intend to try, then having your hooks whipt to links about three quarters of a yard in length, faſten them to your croſs line, about a yard and a half from each other, your hooks being baited with any of the baits abovementioned, faſten the one end of your croſs line to the bank, in river or pond, then having a piece of lead or ſtone, tie it to the other end of your croſs line, and caſt it acroſs the river or pond, leaving it to lie all night, taking it up the next morning, you may be almoſt ſure to have an Eel at every hook. There is another method of taking them with a line about a yard long, faſtened to the ſmall end of an hooked ſtick, the

the hook is ſtuck faſt in the bank, baiting your hook with any of the former baits: This is properly called bank hook fiſhing.

THE beſt way to take Eels by angling is with well-ſcoured red worms or waſp-grubs, which they are very fond of: Your line for this purpoſe muſt be ſtrong; the ſize of your hook, No. 4, or 5: You might uſe two or three rods at a time, for in the ſummer months the Eels are prowling abroad for food, particularly after rain, or thunder ſhowers, at which time they will keep you in conſtant employ to take them off your hooks.

How to take Eels by Sniggling, Broggling, or Proaching.

WHEN you ſniggle or proach for Eels, you muſt have a ſtrong top-rod, about a yard in length, with a gooſe-quil put over the end of it, leaving the extreme end of the quil whole; then taking a large ſtrong needle, and a piece of whipcord for the line, whip it very faſt from the eye of the needle to the middle: Then taking a well-ſcoured lob-worm, run the eye of the needle all up the worm till it comes to the head; ſo that the point of the needle may come out at the middle of the worm, then put the point of the needle into the top of the quil, and take the top-rod and line both in your hand together; thus you may guide your bait under any hollow wall or ſtone very gently, and if there be any Eel he will bite at it: Be ſure to give him time enough till he has gorged, and then

then you may be ſure of him, if you do not attempt to pull him out of his hold too ſuddenly, but by degrees; for he lies enfolded therein, and will, with the help of his tail, break off, unleſs you give him time to be wearied with pulling; and when ſo you may draw him gently and ſlowly out. The beſt places for this kind of diverſion is deſcribed in their haunts.

Of the MINNOW, *or* PINK.

THE Minnow, or Pink, is one and the ſame fiſh. Theſe little fiſh are all without ſcales, but for excellency of taſte may be compared to any of the larger ſize: The upper part of them above the belly, is of a greeniſh watery ſky colour; his belly white, and blackiſh on the back: They are full of eggs or ſpawn all the ſummer months, for they breed often, and quickly arrive at their full growth. They lie not much in deep waters, for fear of being devoured by the greater inhabitants of the deeps. They ſeldom grow above two inches long. They will bite all day long, from ſun-riſe till ſun-ſet, and afford young anglers excellent ſport, frequently taking two or three at a time.

Of the LOACH.

THE Loach, in ſhape, is ſomewhat like a Barbel, having a beard or wattles at his mouth; his ſides of a dapple-grey colour; his

back of a yellowiſh brown; has two fins at his ſides, four at his belly, and one at his tail; ſeldom grows to be three inches in length: His fleſh has a delicate taſte, being very wholeſome for ſick perſons. They are to be found moſtly in ſmall, clear, ſwift, ſhallow, gravelly brooks, under ſtones, but are very ſeldom taken by angling.

Of the BULL-HEAD *or* MILLER's-THUMB.

THE Bull-Head or Miller's-Thumb, is one and the ſame fiſh; is of an odd ſhape, no ways pleaſing to the eye; his head being big and flat, very diſproportionable to his body; his mouth is wide and awry, uſually gaping; his teeth are rough like a file; the upper part of his ſides decked with various coloured ſpots; are full of ſpawn moſt part of the ſummer, and ſpawn in April. They are to be found in ſmall rocky, gravelly brooks, where the water is very clear, and are eaſily ſeen upon any flat ſtone, or on the gravel, at which time he is to be taken with a ſmall worm, and is more pleaſing to the taſte and nouriſhment, than for his ſhape and beauty.

Of the STICKLE-BACK, *or* JACK-SHARP.

THE Stickle-Back is the leaſt and moſt contemptible fiſh; his body being fenced with ſeveral little prickles, very ſharp, from whence he

he takes his name. This fiſh is only mentioned to make up the number of freſh-water fiſh, being too inconſiderable to afford the angler much ſport; and the only uſe they are of, is to fiſh with them for a Trout, the ſame as with a Minnow. *Ariſtotle* and *Pliny* ſay they are bred numerouſly of abundance of rain; and that ſometimes ſmall fiſhes fall with rain; which it is very likely, are ſuddenly generated by the ſun's heat, within a cloud of watery vapours, gathered together, of the ſame nature.

Of the LAMPREY, *or* LAMPRON.

THE Lamprey is a fiſh that affords the angler no ſport, refuſing all ſorts of baits; but are taken in wheels or baſkets, made of twigs, fixed at the bottom of the water for that purpoſe: They are much like Eels, ſlippery and blackiſh, but beneath, on their bellies, ſomewhat blue; on each ſide of their throats have ſeven holes, at which they receive in and let out, freſh water, having no gills; and about two feet and a half in length. Their fleſh is ſweet, good, and yieldeth much nouriſhment. There are great plenty of them in the river Severn, in Worceſterſhire. They are beſt in ſeaſon in March and April, being then fatteſt and ſweeteſt; in ſummer they are harder and leaner: and the inner nerve or ſtring (given them inſtead of a back-bone) is then grown hard.

Fish Ponds *and* Stews.

IT is allowed by the moſt experienced anglers and breeders of fiſh, that thoſe grounds are beſt which are full of ſprings, and apt to be mooriſh: the one breeds them well, and the other preſerves them from being ſtolen.

The ſituation of the pond is alſo to be conſidered, and the nature of the currents that fall into it; likewiſe that it be refreſhed with a little brook, or with rain water that falls from the adjacent hilly ground. Add, that thoſe ponds which receive the ſtale and dung of horſes, breed the largeſt and fatteſt fiſh.

In making the pond, obſerve that the head be at the loweſt part of the ground; and that the trench of the flood-gate or ſluice, have a good ſwift fall, that it may not be long in emptying.

If the pond carry ſix foot of water, it is enough; but it muſt be eight feet deep, to receive the freſhes and rains, that ſhould fall into it.

It would be alſo advantageous to have ſhoals on the ſides, for the fiſh to ſun themſelves in, and lay their ſpawn on; beſides in other places, certain holes, hollow banks, ſhelves, roots of trees, iſlands, &c. to ſerve as their retiring places. Conſider further, whether your pond be a breeder; if ſo, never expect any large

Carps

Carps from thence; the greatneſs of the number of ſpawn overſtocking the pond.

For large Carps a ſtore pond is ever accounted the beſt; and to make a breeding-pond become a ſtore pond, ſee what quantity of Carps it will contain: then put all milters or all ſpawners; whereby in a little time you may have Carps that are both large and exceedingly fat. Thus by putting in one ſex, there is an impoſſibility of the increaſe of them; yet the Roach, notwithſtanding this precaution, will multiply. Reſerve ſome great waters for the head quarters of the fiſh, whence you may take, or wherein you may put any quantity thereof.

And be ſure to have ſtews and other auxiliary waters, ſo as you may convey any part of the ſtock from one to the other; to loſe no time in the growth of the fiſh, but employ your water as you do your land, to the beſt advantage. View the grounds, and find out ſome fall between the hills, as near a flat as may be, ſo as to leave a proper current for the water. If there be any difficulty in judging of ſuch, take an opportunity, after ſome ſudden rain, or breaking up of a great ſnow in winter, you will plainly ſee which way the ground caſts; for the water will take the true fall, and run accordingly.

The condition of the place muſt determine the quantity of the ground to be covered with water. For example, I may propoſe in all fifteen acres, in three ponds, or eight acres in two, and not leſs; and theſe ponds ſhould be

placed one above another, that the point of the lower may almoſt reach the head or bank of the upper, which contrivance is no leſs beautiful than advantageous.

The head, or bank, which, by ſtopping the current, is to raiſe the water, (and ſo make a pond,) muſt be built with the clay and earth, taken out of the pan, or hollow, dug in the loweſt ground above the bank: the ſhape of the pan to be an half oval, whereof the flat to come to the bank, and the longer diameter to run ſquare from it.

For two large ponds of three or four acres a piece, it is adviſeable to have four ſtews, each two rods wide, and three long. The ſtews are uſually in gardens, or near the houſe, to be more handy and better looked to. The method of making them, is to carry the bottom in a continual decline from one end, with a mouth to favour the drawing with a net.

FLY-

FLY-FISHING.

THIS ſort of Angling, Fly-Fiſhing, is the moſt genteel, ingenious, pleaſant, and profitable of the innocent recreation of Angling; to the perfect accompliſhment of which is required, not only great attention and frequent practice, but alſo diligent obſervation and conſiderable judgment: It is the cleaneſt and neateſt that can poſſibly be immagined, being quite free from the trouble of baiting your hook, or fouling your fingers: The exerciſe it requires you to take is moderate and gentle, not being confined long to any part of the river, but moving from ſtream to ſtream. The fiſh that are caught in this manner, are of the beſt and moſt delicate ſort; and when the water is in order, and plenty of flies, there are a great number of fiſh to be taken. The preparation of the materials for the artificial fly, and the ſkill and contrivance in making them, and comparing them with the natural, is a very pleaſing amuſement: The manner of the fiſh taking them,

them, which is by riſing to the ſurface of the water, and ſometimes out of it, gives the angler a very agreeable ſurpriſe, and the length of the line greatly adds to the pleaſure of tiring and killing them, after they are hooked.

I ſhall ſet down a catalogue of thoſe flies that are moſt uſeful for every month in the year, in their proper ſeaſons, that thoſe who pleaſe may take them, and ſuch as deſire not to become ſo compleat artiſts as to make their own flies, may nevertheleſs know, by the help of this manual, not only which are the beſt flies for their purpoſe, but how to beſpeak them of others, to be not more deceived in the exactneſs of the flies than in the right uſe of them.

Firſt I ſhall give you a catalogue more out of curioſity than uſe, of thoſe flies that are not worth the angler's notice, and ſo proceed to thoſe that are more uſeful.

A CA-

A CATALOGUE *of* FLIES *ſeldom found uſeful to fiſh with.*

1 THE Dun Fly.
2 Ruddy Fly.
3 Black Fly.
4 Sandy-yellow Fly.
5 Mooriſh Fly.
6 Twine Fly.
7 Waſp Fly.
8 Shell Fly.
9 Dark Drake Fly.
10 Dark Brown Fly.
11 Prime Dun Fly.
12 Black May Palmer Worm.
13 Calmet Fly.
14 Oak Fly.
15 Owl Fly.
16 Brown Gnat.
17 Green Fleſh Fly.
18 Harry long Legs.
19 Badger Fly.

The moſt uſeful FLIES *throughout the Year, and their proper Seaſon.*

1 THE Red Fly.
2 Blue Dun Fly.
3 Brown Fly.
4 Cowdung Fly.
5 Stone Fly.
6 Granam Fly.
7 Spider or Gravel Fly.
8 Black Gnat,
9 Black Caterpiller, or Hawthorn Fly.
10 Iron-blue Fly.
11 Sally Fly.
12 Canon, or Down-hill Fly.
13 Shorn Fly.
14 Green Drake.
15 Grey Drake.
16 Orl Fly.
17 Sky-colour'd Blue.
18 Cadis Fly.
19 Fern Fly.
20 Red Spinner.
21 Blue Gnat.
22 Large Red Ant
23 Large Black Ant.
24 Welſham's Button.
25 Little Red Ant.
26 Little Black Ant.
27 Little Whirl. Blue.
28 Little Pale Blue.
29 Willow Fly.

The

The RED FLY,

COMES down about the middle of February, and continues till the latter end of March, He is made artificially of a dark drake's feather, the body of a red part of a ſquirrel's fur, with the red hackle of a cock wrapt twice or thrice under the but of the wing; has four wings, and generally flutters upon the ſurface of the water, which tempts the fiſh, and makes them take him the more eagerly: The ſize of the hook, No. 6.

The BLUE DUN FLY,

COMES down the beginning of March, and continues till the middle of April: His wings are made of a feather out of the Starling's wing, or the blue feathers that grow under the wing of a duck widgeon; the body is made with the blue fur of a fox, or the blue part of a ſquirrel's fur, mixed with a little yellow mohair, and a fine blue cock's hackle wrapt over the body,

body, in imitation of the legs: As he ſwims down the water his wings ſtand upright on his back; his tail forked, and of the ſame colour of his wings. He appears on the water about ten o'clock in the forenoon, and continues till about three in the afternoon, but the principal time of the day is from twelve till two; the flies then come down in great quantities, and are always more plentiful in dark, cold, gloomy days, than in bright ſun-ſhine weather. Your morning's fiſhing, till the flies come on, ſhould be with the worm or minnow; the ſize of the hook this fly is made of, is No. 7; but if the water is very low and fine, No. 8.

The BROWN FLY, *or* DUN DRAKE,

COMES down about the middle of March, and continues till the latter end of April: His wings are made of the feather of a pheaſant's wing, which is full of fine ſhade, and exactly reſembles the wing of the fly: The body is made of the bright part of hare's fur, mixed with a little of the red part of ſquirrel's fur, ribbed with yellow ſilk, and a partridge's hackle wrapt twice or thrice under the but of the wing: As he ſwims down the water, his wings ſtand upright upon his back, his tail is forked, the colour

colour of his wings: He comes upon the water about eleven o'clock, and continues till two, appearing upon the water in ſhoals or great quantities; in dark gloomy days, at the approach of the leaſt gleam of ſun, it is amazing to ſee, in a moment's time, the ſurface of the water almoſt covered over with ten thouſands of theſe pretty little flying inſects, and the fiſh riſing and ſporting at them, inſomuch that you would think the whole river was alive; a pleaſing ſight to the angler, and affords him great diverſion; in this manner they appear upon the water every ſucceſſive day, till the end of their duration. The Blue Dun, and the Brown, are both on at the ſame time, the blues are moſt plentiful in cold and dark days, and the browns in warm and gloomy days, tho' I have often ſeen blues, browns and granams on at the ſame time, when they have refuſed the other two ſorts, and have taken the browns only. There cannot be too much ſaid in commendation of this fly, both for its duration, and the ſport he affords the angler: The ſize of the hook he is made on, is No. 6.

The COWDUNG FLY,

COMES down about the middle of March, and continues till the latter end of April: When upon the water his wings lie flat upon his back. He is to be uſed in cold ſtormy days; is ſeldom ſeen upon the water but when drove there by high winds. His wings are made of a feather out of the wing of a landrail; his body is of a dirty lemon-coloured mohair, with a hackle the ſame colour, wrapt under the but of the wings, and to be made ſomewhat in reſemblance of the large horſe ant: The ſize of the hook, No. 7.

The STONE FLY,

COMES down about the middle of April, and continues till the latter end of May. He is a large four-winged fly; bred from an inſect in the water, called the water cricket; to be found in ſtony, gravelly brooks, or rivers; his belly is of a dirty yellow, his wings

of a fine blue colour, full of ſmall veins, ſo that he is beſt made with a fine blue grizzle cock's hackle; the body with dark brown mohair, mixed with a dirty yellow. He is to be fiſhed with at any time of the day, but does beſt in ſmall brooks, or in the moſt rapid ſtreams in rivers: The ſize of the hook, No. 3.

The GRANAM FLY, *or* GREEN TAIL,

COMES about the beginning of April, if the weather be warm, being a very tender fly, and cannot endure the cold. When they firſt appear upon the water, they come in great quantities, in bright mornings: you may begin to fiſh with them from ſix o'clock in the morning till eleven, then you will find the browns come on, which you muſt uſe, as you will find they will not touch the Granams as long as the browns continue. About five o'clock in the evening you may uſe the Granams again with ſucceſs; the browns then having totally diſappeared for that day. This Granam is a four-winged fly; as he ſwims down the water his wings lie flat upon his back, has a ſmall bunch of eggs of a green colour which gives him the name of the Green Tail Fly, for as ſoon as he lights upon the water he drops his

his eggs; is of ſhort duration, not laſting above a week, and then totally diſappears for that year. His wings are made of a feather out of the wing of a partridge, or pheaſant, which is ſhaded like the wing of the fly; his body is made of the fur of the hare's face, or ear, and a grizzled hackle of a cock, wrapt under the but of the wing: The hook, No. 8.

The SPIDER FLY,

COMES about the twentieth of April, if the weather be warm, and continues about a fortnight: They are bred in beds of gravel by the water ſide, where you may find them in bunches engendering, in order for their production the next ſeaſon. In cold and ſtormy days they hide themſelves in the gravel, not being able to endure the cold. You may fiſh with him from ſun-riſe, till ſun-ſet, being a very killing fly, therefore cannot ſay too much in praiſe of him. His wings are made of a woodcock's feather, out of the but of the wing; the body of a lead coloured ſilk, with a black cock's hackle, wrapt twice or thrice under the but of the wings. This fly cannot be made too fine: The hook, No. 8, or 9.

The BLACK GNAT,

COMES about the ſame time as the Spider fly, and continues till the latter end of May; to be fiſhed with in cold ſtormy days, ſeldom to be ſeen in warm weather.—His wings are made of a dark blue hackle, and the body of an oſtrich's feather: The hook, No. 9.

The BLACK CATERPILLAR,

COMES about the beginning of May, and continues about a fortnight, and is to be fiſhed with after hot ſunſhine mornings; if winds and clouds appear, they then grow weak for loſs of the ſun, and fall upon the waters in great quantities. His wings are made of the feather out of a jay's wing, the body of an oſtrich's feather, which I think far preferable to the plover's, with a fine black cock's hackle over the body. He is a very killing fly in ſmall rivers and brooks: The hook, No. 7.

The

The LITTLE IRON-BLUE FLY,

COMES about a week in May, and continues till the middle of June: In cold and ſtormy days they come down the waters in great quantities, but in warm days there are few to be ſeen. As he ſwims down the water his wings ſtand upright upon his back; his tail is forked, the colour of his wings. He is a neat curious little fly, and cannot be made too fine; to be fiſhed with from about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, till three in the afternoon. When theſe flies are on, the fiſh refuſe every other ſort, and take theſe only; every ſort of fiſh being fond of them. His wings are made of a cormorant's feather that grows under the wing, or the feather of a dark blue hen that grows on the body under the wings, the body of water-rats fur, ribbed with yellow ſilk, with a ſutty blue hackle of a cock wrapt over the body: The hook, No. 8, or 9.

The YELLOW SALLY FLY,

COMES about the twentieth of May, and continues till about the tenth or twelfth of June, and is a four-winged fly. As he ſwims down the water his wings lie flat on his back. His wings are made with a yellow cock's hackle, his body is made with yellow dubbing only. He is one of the flies that prepare the fiſh to look for the May Fly, or Green Drake: The hook, No. 7.

The CANON, *or* DOWN-HILL FLY,

COMES about the ſixteenth of May, and continues about a week in June; to be found on the buts of trees, with his head always downwards, which gives him the name of the Down-hill Fly. He is bred in the oak-apples; and is the beſt of all flies for bobbing at the buſh, in the natural way, and a good fly for the long line, when made artificially: His wings are made with a feather out of the wing of

of a partridge; his body with a bittern's feather, the head with a little of the brown part of hare's fur: The hook, No. 7.

The SHORN FLY,

COMES about the ſame time as the Canon Fly, and continues till the latter end of July. They are for the moſt part found in mowing graſs; he is of the caterpillar kind, his huſky wings of a dark brown colour, with fine clear blue wings under them, which he makes uſe of in his flight: Is in his greateſt perfection in June, and, for the time of his continuance upon the water, is as killing a fly as any I know of, in rivers, or brooks: There are three ſorts of them; the one I have before-mentioned, as to his colour; there is another with a dull red wing; and the third with a dark blue wing, all which ſorts the fiſh take very well, but the preference muſt be given to the red ſort. To be fiſhed with any time of the day, from ſun-riſe to ſun-ſet: His wings are made of a red cock's hackle, with a black liſt up the middle; the body with a peacock's harle: The hook, No. 6, if for a river; but if for a dead, heavy, running brook, the fly muſt be made larger: The hook, No. 4, or 5.

The

The MAY FLY, *or* YELLOW CADOW,

COMES down the water about the twentieth of May, is of ſhort duration, not laſting above nine or ten days. He is a large and beautiful fly, which both fiſh and birds are very fond of: They are moſt plentiful in gravelly, ſandy, ſtoney rivers or brooks; but in ſome dead, heavy, dull waters, there are few to be ſeen. As he ſwims down the water his wings ſtand upright on his back; has a three-forked tail, is about an inch long, and is to be fiſhed with from about ten o'clock in the morning, till ſun-ſetting; being a fly the fiſh are remarkably fond of, they not only take them very eagerly at the top of the water, but feed on them as they riſe from the bottom, where they are bred in huſks, which they quit when they come to the ſurface of the water, and are ſo ſhort-lived, that they are almoſt inſtantly devoured by fiſh or birds. It is an excellent fly for bobbing at the buſh, as well as the long line, and is as killing upon ſtanding waters, as in ſtreams. When theſe flys are in perfection, the fiſh refuſe all other ſorts, and take theſe only. His wings are made of the feather of a grey drake, or rather the grey feathers of a wild mallard, dyed yellow;

yellow; the body is made of the yellow wool of a ram, or wether; his body is ribbed with a dark brown, for which no feather does ſo well as the hackle of a bittern; it likewiſe makes the legs very artificially; his head is of a dark brown, made of a peacock's harle, and his tail with the hair of a fitchew's tail: The hook, No. 5.

The GREY DRAKE,

COMES about the twenty-ſeventh, or twenty-eighth of May; he is a large and beautiful fly, in ſhape and make very much reſembles the Yellow Cadow; ſeldom appearing on the water till about ſix or ſeven o'clock in the evening, and to be fiſhed with from that time till ſun-ſetting: All the former part of the day the fiſh take the Yellow Cadow very freely, but in the evenings, when the grey ones appear in great quantities, they will not touch the yellow ones. In fiſhing with this fly, you muſt endeavour to imitate the riſing and falling of him on the water, being always in motion, friſking up and down, for which reaſon, in ſome places, he is called the Tilt-up Fly: He is not a difficult fly to make, but more difficult to fiſh with after he is made, and therefore, if poſſible, caſt your line, ſo that your fly may drop directly over the fiſh's

fiſh's head, which reſembles the manner of theſe flies, dropping on the water; which method muſt be obſerved in fiſhing with theſe flies upon ſtanding waters, as well as ſtreams: But all other flies ought to be thrown about half a yard above the head of the fiſh, as they all ſwim gradually down the water. There are three ſorts of Grey Cadows, and but only one of the ſorts to be made artificially; the other two ſorts ſeldom appearing upon the water, but are generally playing and friſking by the ſides of hedges near the water ſide, and are much darker and ſmaller than thoſe that frequent the water, therefore are not worth the angler's notice. The wings of this fly are made with a grey feather of the wild millard, the widgeon being too dark; the body, of goat's hair, which makes it the beſt of any thing I know of, the ſilver twiſt being too heavy, and too glaring in the water; the legs of a dark grizzle cock's hackle, which I find far preferable to the bittern's hackle; the head of a dark brown, made with a peacock's harle; his tail is three-forked, about an inch and an half long, which is made of the hairs or whiſks out of the tail of a fitchew: The hook, No. 5.

THE following ingenious account of this fly, is very juſtly deſcribed by a gentleman, a very accurate obſerver of nature's productions; as it may be matter of curioſity and entertainment to ſome of my readers, I ſhall here give it them, as briefly, and as near his own words as I can.

I HAP-

I HAPPENED to walk by the river ſide, at that ſeaſon of the year, when the May Flies, the grey ſort, which are a ſpecies of the libella, come up out of the water, where they lie in their huſks for a conſiderable time, at the bottom or ſides of the river, near the likeneſs of the nymph of the ſmall common libella; but when it is mature it ſplits open its caſe, and then with great agility, up ſprings the new little animal; with a ſlender body, four blackiſh-veined tranſparent wings, with four black ſpots upon the upper wings, and the under wings much ſmaller than the upper ones, with three long hairs in its tail; the huſks which are left behind float innumerably upon the water. It ſeemed to be a ſpecies of the ephemerong, and I imagined it was the ſame inſect deſcribed by *Goodart* and *Swammerdam*, but a few days convinced me to the contrary; for I found them to be of longer duration than theirs. The firſt buſineſs of this creature (after he is diſengaged from the water) is flying about to find out a proper place to fix on (as trees, buſhes, &c.) to wait for another ſurpriſing change which is effected in two or three days. The firſt hint I received of this wonderful operation was, ſeeing their exuviæ hanging on a hedge; I then collected a great many and put them in boxes, and by ſtrictly obſerving them I could tell when they were ready to put off their clothes, though but ſo lately put on. I had the pleaſure to ſhew my friends one that I held on my finger, during the time it perform-

ed

ed this great work. It was ſurpriſing to ſee how eaſily the back part of the fly ſplit open and produced the new birth, which I could not perceive to partake of any thing from its parent, but leaves, head, body, wings, legs, and even its three-hared tail behind on the caſe. After it has repoſed itſelf awhile, it flies with great briſkneſs to ſeek its mate. In the new fly a remarkable difference is ſeen in their ſexes, which I could not ſo eaſily perceive in their firſt ſtate, the male and female being then much of a ſize, but now the male was much the ſmalleſt, and the hairs in his tail much the longeſt. I was very careful to ſee if I could find them engendering, but all that I could diſcover was, that the males ſeparated and kept under the cover of the trees, remote from the river: Hither the females reſorted, and mixed with them in their flights; great numbers together, with a very briſk motion of darting or ſtriking at one another when they met, with great vigour, juſt as houſe flies will do in a ſunny room; this they continued to do for many hours, and this ſeemed to be their way of coition, which muſt be quick and ſoon performed, as they are of ſo ſhort duration: When the females were impregnated, they left the company of the males and ſought the river, and kept conſtantly playing up and down on the water; it was very plainly ſeen, every time they darted down they ejected a cluſter of eggs, which ſeemed a pale bluiſh ſpeck, like a ſmall drop of milk, as they deſcended on the water;

water; then by the help of their tail they ſpring up again, and deſcend again; thus continuing till they have exhauſted their ſtock of eggs, and ſpent their ſtrength, being ſo weak that they can riſe no more, but fall a prey to the fiſh; but by much the greateſt numbers periſh on the waters, which are covered with them: This is the end of the females, but the males never reſort to the rivers, as I could perceive, but after they have done their office, drop down, languiſh and die under the trees, and buſhes. I obſerved that the females were moſt numerous, which was very neceſſary, conſidering the many enemies they have, during the ſhort time of their appearance; for both birds and fiſh are very fond of them, and no doubt under the water they are a food for ſmall aquatic inſects. What is further remarkable in this ſurpriſing creature is, that in a life of a few days, it eats nothing, ſeems to have no apparatus for that purpoſe, but brings up with it out of the water ſufficient ſupport to enable it to ſhed its ſkin, and perform the principal end of life with great vivacity. The particular time when I obſerved them very numerous and ſportive, was on the 26th of May, at ſix o'clock in the evening. It was a ſight very ſurpriſing and entertaining to ſee the rivers teeming with innumerable pretty, nimble, flying inſects, and almoſt every thing near covered with them: When I looked up into the air it was full of them, as high as I could diſcern, and being ſo thick and always in motion, they made almoſt ſuch an appearance

as when one looks up and ſees the ſnow coming down; and yet this wonderful appearance, in three or four days after the laſt of May, totally diſappeared.

The ORL FLY,

COMES down the latter end of May, and continues till the latter end of June: He is a four-winged fly, generally flutters along the ſurface of the water; and is a fly the fiſh are remarkably fond of; you may fiſh with him with ſucceſs after the May Fly is gone, from four o'clock in the morning till about ſeven in the evening, at which time the Sky Blue comes on, then leave off the Orl and take the Sky Blue only. The wings of the Orl Fly are made with a dark grizzle cock's hackle, the body of a peacock's harle, worked with dark red ſilk: The hook, No. 6.

The SKY-COLOURED BLUE,

COMES about the ſame time as the Orl Fly, and continues till the middle of July: It is a neat, curious, and beautiful Fly; his wings ſtand upright on his back, and are of a fine tranſparent blue colour; his body of a pale yellow, with a forked tail, the colour of his wing. It is a fly the fiſh take extremely well from ſeven o'clock in the evening till ſunſet.

His

His wings are made with a light blue feather of a hen; the body is made with a pale yellow mohair, mixed with a light blue fur, ribbed with a fine cock's hackle, dyed yellow: The hook, No. 8.

The CADIS FLY,

COMES about the tenth of June: It is a large four-winged fly, of a buff-colour; his body the ſame colour of his wings: He continues on the water till about the beginning of July; he is bred from the cod-bait, a curious little creature: While in the ſtate of a grub, he is greatly to be admired, the out-ſide huſk he lives in being curiouſly wrought with gravel or ſand. This fly does beſt at the clearing of the water; though I think him a fly worth the leaſt notice of any in the catalogue, there being many ſorts on at the ſame time far preferable to him. His wings are made of a feather taken from the body of a buff-coloured hen; the body is made of buff-coloured mohair, with a pale yellow hackle for the legs: The hook, No. 6.

The FERN FLY,

COMES about the middle of June, and continues till about the middle of July: He is a four-winged fly; his body very ſlender

and of an orange colour; he is to be fiſhed with at any time of the day, from ſun-riſe till ſun-ſet, being a very killing fly. His wings are made with a woodcock's feather, his body with orange-colour'd ſilk: The hook, No. 5.

The Red Spinners,

COME about the middle of June, and continue till the latter end of Auguſt: To be fiſhed with only in the evenings after very hot days, from ſeven o'clock as long as you can ſee. There are two ſorts of Spinners; the one is made with the grey feather of a drake, tinged with a copper-coloured gloſs; his body with the red part of the ſquirrel's fur, ribbed with gold twiſt, and a fine red cock's hackle for the legs; with a long forked tail, made with the harles of a red hackle: The wings of the other Spinner is made with the feather out of the wing of a ſtarling; the body of a dull red mohair, ribbed with gold twiſt, with a fine red cock's hackle over the body, the tail long and forked, and made as the former. Theſe are both very killing flies, particularly upon rivers: The hook, No. 7, or 8, according to the water you fiſh in.

The Blue Gnat,

COMES down about the ſame time as the Spinner, and continues about a fortnight: If the water be low and fine the fiſh take them very

very well, as long as they laſt upon the water: The wings of this Gnat are made with a ſmall pale blue cock's hackle, the body with a light blue fur, mixed with a little yellow mohair: The hook, No. 8, or 9.

The Large Red Ant Fly,

COMES about the middle of June, if it be hot and ſultry weather, and continues till about the fifteenth or ſixteenth of July, appearing moſtly in hot, cloſe, gloomy days. To be fiſhed with from about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, till about ſix in the evening; then make uſe of the evening flies, as deſcribed before. The Ant Flies, when in perfection, are amazingly killing; and all ſorts of fiſh that riſe at flies are very fond of them; indeed you may take fiſh with them in dead heavy waters, as well as in ſtreams. The wings of this fly are made with a feather out of the wing of a ſtarling, the body of a peacock's harle, made pretty large at the tail, and fine towards the wing, with a fine ginger-coloured cock's hackle, wrapt twice or thrice under the but of the wing: The hook, No. 8.

The Large Black Ant Fly,

COMES at the ſame time with the red, and to be fiſhed with at the ſame time, and after the ſame manner. The wings of this fly are made

with the lighteſt ſky-coloured blue feather you can get, and with the greateſt gloſs; but it is difficult to find any that can come up to the gloſſineſs of the natural wing, except the thiſtle, which makes it the beſt of any thing I know of, but is not laſting; the body is made with a black oſtrich's feather, with a black cock's hackle wrapt under the but of the wing, and to be made in the ſame form as the red one: The hook, No. 8.

The WELSHMAN'S BUTTON, *Or* HAZLE FLY,

COMES about the latter end of July, and continues about nine or ten days; is in form like a round button, from which he derives his name; he has four wings, the uppermoſt huſky and hard, the undermoſt of a fine blue colour, ſoft and tranſparent; to be found upon hazle trees or fern buſhes. He is an excellent fly for bobbing at the buſh, or long line, being rather difficult to make, upon account of his ſhape and form. His wings are made with the red feather that grows upon the rump or tail of a partridge; the body is made with a peacock's harle and an oſtrich's feather mixed, with a fine black cock's hackle for the legs. The hook, No. 7.

The

The LITTLE RED *and* BLACK ANT FLIES,

COME about the tenth or twelfth of Auguſt, and are to be ſeen in warm gloomy days till the latter end of September; to be fiſhed with from about twelve o'clock till four in the evening; to be made in the ſame form as the large one, and with the ſame materials, but very ſmall: The hook, No. 9.

The LITTLE WHIRLING BLUE,

COMES down about the tenth or twelfth of Auguſt, and continues about three weeks. As he ſwims down the water his wings ſtand upright on his back; has a forked tail the colour of his wings; to be fiſhed with from eleven o'clock in the forenoon till three in the afternoon. His wings are made with a feather out of the wing of a ſtarling; his body is made with ſquirrel's fur, mixed with a little yellow, with a fine red hackle over the body: The hook, No. 8.

The LITTLE PALE BLUE,

COMES down about the ſame time as the Whirling Blue, and continues till the latter end of September: As he ſwims down the water

water his wings ſtand upright on his back; has a forked tail the colour of his wings. It is a neat curious little fly, which the greylings are very fond of. To be fiſhed with from about ten o'clock in the morning till three in the afternoon, and generally affords the angler great diverſion. His wings are made of the feather of a ſea-ſwallow, the body is made of the lighteſt blue fur you can get, mixed with a very little yellow mohair, with a fine pale blue hackle over the body: The hook, No. 8.

The WILLOW FLY,

COMES down the beginning of September, and continues till the latter end of October. He is a four-winged fly, and generally flutters upon the ſurface of the water: To be fiſhed with in cold ſtormy days, being then moſt plentiful upon the water; but in warm gloomy days make uſe of the Pale Blue. His wings are made of a blue grizzled cock's hackle, the body of the blue part of ſquirrel's fur, mixed with a little yellow mohair: The hook, No. 7. The three laſt-mentioned flies carry out the ſeaſon for fly-fiſhing.

FROM the middle of May till Auguſt, you will find great variety of flies and gnats upon the water every day, ſo that you muſt obſerve it is a general rule, to fiſh with the firſt fly that comes on in the morning; for that fly which is firſt

firſt mentioned in every month, is the firſt fly that comes down in the day, and to be fiſhed with firſt, and then you will ſee the other flies and gnats coming down every day in their regular ſucceſſion, one after another, every ſucceeding day, till Auguſt. The great number of flies and inſects that are upon the water all the hot ſummer months, and the great variety of food they have both at top and bottom, makes them very nice, and more difficult to take, than in the ſpring, or in the autumn; the great number of flies and inſects that are upon the water all the ſummer months, totally diſappear about the middle of Auguſt, ſo that your diverſion is more certain with the three autumn flies, which are equal in goodneſs to the three ſpring flies, which are the Red Fly, the Blue Dun, and the Brown. In theſe two ſeaſons of the year, if the weather be favourable, and the water in order, you will find your ſport more certain and regular than in the hotter months. Some are of opinion that the flies differ according to the rivers, but I will venture to ſay they are all alike in their kinds, and are produced at the ſame certain times and ſeaſons of the year, only this difference, they might alter a ſhade or two in their colours, ariſing from the nature of the ſoil through which the river runs. Now I have given you an account of all the moſt uſeful flies, and their ſeaſons, except the two Salmon Flies, two Night Flies, and the Palmers; which I ſhall deſcribe in their order.

Firſt,

Firſt, the DRAGON FLY,

THAT comes about the middle of June, and continues till the latter end of Auguſt. His head is almoſt all eyes, has four wings full of ſmall veins, very clear and tranſparent, tinged of a copper-colour; his body of various colours, and about two inches and a half in length, and feeds upon ſmall inſects in the air, after the ſame manner as ſwallows do upon flies.

The KING'S FISHER, *or* PEACOCK FLY,

COMES about the ſame time as the Dragon Fly, and continues about a week longer; feeds on the ſame inſects, and after the ſame manner. He is called the King's Fiſher from the beautifulneſs of his colour; but the Peacock Fly I think the moſt proper name, being ſo near the colour of the feathers that grow upon the neck of a Peacock, as this Fly's wings and body are. It is needleſs to treat of any more Salmon Flies; for Salmon Flies, in general, are made juſt as the painter pleaſes. Salmon being fond of any thing that is gaudy; and they will riſe at almoſt any of the trout flies, where ſalmon are plenty. Now I ſhall give you an account of the two night flies.

The

The BROWN *and* WHITE NIGHT FLIES,

ARE a couple of Moths, which come about the beginning of June, and continue till the middle of July; ſeldom to be ſeen at any time but in the night; and to be fiſhed with in a dark gloomy night, after a bright ſun-ſhine day, from eleven o'clock at night, till break of day, with ſucceſs: But if it be a moon-ſhine, or ſtar-light night, there are no fiſh to be taken. Your line for this method of fiſhing muſt be about a yard longer than your rod, putting two or three maggots, or a worm, at the point of your hook, for the ſmelling part; and you may hear them riſe in as much perfection, as if you were fiſhing by day; and will take them in ſtanding waters as well as in ſtreams. The brown one is made of a feather of a brown owl, the body of a light mohair, with a dark grizzle cock's hackle for the legs. The white one's wings are made of the feather out of the wing of a white owl; the body of white cotton, and the white hackle of a cock for the legs: The hook, No. 3.

OF

OF THE
PALMER-WORMS,

That are to be made artificially, and to be uſed upon the Surface of the Water, after the ſame Manner as the Artificial Fly.

Firſt, the GOLDEN PALMER.

HIS body is made of orange-coloured ſilk, ribbed down with a peacock's harle and gold twiſt, with the red hackle of a cock wrapt over the body: The hook, No. 5, or 6, according to the water you fiſh in.

The BROWN PALMER.

THE body is made with hog's dung, dyed of an amber colour, ribbed with ſilver and gold twiſt, with a red cock's hackle wrapt over the body.

The BLACK PALMER.

THE body is made with the black oſtrich's feather, ribbed with ſilver twiſt, with a black cock's hackle over the body.

The

The RED PALMER.

THE body is made with a dark reddiſh-coloured mohair, ribbed with gold twiſt, and a blood-red cock's hackle over the body: The hooks the ſame ſize as the golden one.

HAVING now laid down, in the beſt manner I can, an account of the moſt uſeful flies, in their ſeveral ſeaſons, that are requiſite for the diverſion of my brother anglers, with the proper materials for making each fly; it will be neceſſary, before I conclude the ſubject of Fly-Fiſhing, to lay down the beſt directions I can for making the artificial fly, and then proceed to bottom fiſhing.

The Manner of Making the ARTIFICIAL FLY.

WHEN you make an artificial Fly, you muſt, in the firſt place, make choice of a hook of a ſize proportionable to the Fly you intend to make, which muſt be whipped on to your gut or hair in the ſame manner you would whip on a worm-hook, only with this difference, that inſtead of faſtening near the bend of the hook, you muſt faſten your ſilk near the top of the ſhank, and let your ſilk remain; then

taking as much feather as is neceſſary for the wings, lay it as even as you can upon the upper ſide of the ſhank, with the but end of the feather downward, towards the bend of the hook, and tye it faſt three or four times with the ſilk, and faſten it; then, with a needle or pin, divide the wings as equal as you can; then take your ſilk and croſs it three or four times between the wings, bringing the ſilk ſtill downward, towards the bend of the hook, then taking your hackle feather, tye it faſt at the bend with the point of the hackle upwards; next, your fur or dubbing being ready, which is to make the body of the Fly, take a little of it and twiſt it gently round your ſilk, and work it upwards to the but of the wings, and there faſten it; then take your hackle and rib it neatly over your dubbing, and faſten it; then bending the wings and putting them into the form you deſign, bring on the but end of your hackle towards the head, and there faſten it firm; then taking a bit of dubbing or fur, as near to the colour of the head of the Fly as you can, whip it twice or thrice round with your ſilk, and then faſten it juſt above the wings; ſo your Fly is compleated.

I confeſs no directions can well be given for making a Fly, the way of doing it ſometimes varying, according to the ſort of Fly you are to make or to the fancy of the artiſt; yet theſe rules, with a little practice, will, in ſome meaſure, aſſiſt an ingenious angler; but to ſee a Fly made by a ſkilful hand is the beſt manner of

of learning: It is alſo very neceſſary to take notice, as you walk by the river, of the particular ſort of Fly that the Trouts leap at, then catching one of them, and having a bag of materials ready provided for that purpoſe, try how far art can imitate nature, and though you miſs at firſt, yet by diligent obſervation and experience, you may ſoon arrive at perfection, and take a particular pleaſure in Fly-making.

The art of managing your rod, and throwing your Fly, is no more to be learned by rules than that of making it; only I would adviſe the young ſportſman never to incumber himſelf with too much line, not longer than the breadth of the river he fiſhes in. In raiſing your line, obſerve to wave your rod a little round your head, rather than bring it directly backwards, and take care not to make a return of your line till it has gone to its full length behind you, otherwiſe you will be very apt to whip off your Fly: The greateſt ſkill is to make your line fall as light as poſſible on the water, eſpecially in ſmooth gliding ſtreams, for if it falls ſo heavy as to daſh the water, you will be ſure to affright, and not to catch, the fiſh. When you ſee a fiſh riſe at a natural Fly, the beſt way is to throw about half a yard above, rather than directly over his head; and let your Fly move gently towards him, by which means you will ſhew it him more naturally, and he will be the more tempted to take it; yet nothing but your own experience and practice can make you maſter in the art, ſo as to throw

in difficult places, between trees and bushes; and into holes and curls of the water, where, generally, the beſt and largeſt fiſh lie, not eaſily to be come at by inexperienced anglers.

OF

OF

BOTTOM FISHING;

Deſcribing every Bait neceſſary to be uſed in regular Succeſſion through the Year.

Of WORM-FISHING,

WHICH comes in about the middle of February. If the weather be mild, and continues good till the latter end of May, you may fiſh with a worm at any time of the day, if the water be mudded or diſturbed with rain, but if the water is low and fine, only mornings and evenings, in the moſt rapid ſtreams: Your line, if an open river, ſhould be a yard and half longer than your rod, by reaſon of keeping out of ſight as much as poſſible; but in muddy water you may uſe what length of line you pleaſe, ſuitable to the water you fiſh in: Your line for this purpoſe ſhould be pretty ſtrong, the bottom part about a yard and half of good ſtrong gut, or graſs: The ſize of the hooks, No. 1 or 2, according to the ſize of the fiſh in the river or brook you fiſh in; your lead ſhould be about nine inches or a foot from your hook, your hook armed with a briſtle upon the ſhank to

prevent the worm ſlipping down into the bend of the hook: The worm is a very natural bait to fiſh, being frequently waſhed into rivers and brooks by land floods, and generally take the largeſt fiſh.

The beſt worms for this fiſhing, are the Dung-hill Red Worm and the Brandling, well-ſcoured in moſs, or fennel; the former to be found under old thatch, or thatch and dung mixed together, though there are ſome to be found in moſt dung-hils; the Brandling is a very beautiful worm, ſtreaked from head to tail in round ringlets, one ſtreak red and the other yellow; chiefly to be fiſhed with when the water is low and fine, by the ſides of rapid ſtreams: They are to be found in dung-hills where horſe dung and hog's dung are mixed together, but the largeſt and fineſt are found among the ſhavings of currier's leather mixed with a little earth. Theſe are the only two ſorts of worms worth the angler's notice with a running line.

OF
MINNOW-FISHING,
Or Trouling *with the* Minnow *or* Pink.

THE Minnow-Fiſhing comes in about the middle of March, and continues till the latter end of Auguſt; it is a moſt excellent bait, very deſtructive, of ſtrong exerciſe, being always in motion, and affords the angler variety of ſport: To be fiſhed with at any time of the day from ſun-riſe till ſun-ſet, and takes the beſt and largeſt of fiſh: By its quick turning motion, if fiſhed with as it ought to be, provokes the fiſh to come if not upon their feed: Your line for this purpoſe muſt be ſtrong and fine, with one or two ſwivels upon your line to help your Minnow to play and turn freely, and eaſily, ſo as to prevent your line from twiſting and breaking; your hook large, not leaded upon the ſhank, but a cap that runs upon the line and falls upon the head of the Pink, which I find anſwers better than the leaded hook, and the Minnow ſpins more free and eaſy; beſides, by the help of the cap, may be confined one, two, or three hooks to hang looſe by the ſide of the Minnow that is baited upon

upon the great hook, ſo that when the fiſh ſtrikes at the Minnow, they are oftener taken by the ſmall hooks than by the large one. This way of fiſhing is chiefly to be uſed in rapid ſtreams, which helps to give the Minnow a briſk motion, by drawing your line pretty briſkly againſt the ſtream; and when you ſee the fiſh run at it, take care not to ſnatch away the bait through ſurpriſe, which the inexperienced angler is not ſufficiently guarded againſt. In the months of May, and June, they are to be taken in ſtanding waters, as well as in ſtreams, and there cannot be ſaid too much in praiſe of this moſt excellent bait.

COD-BAIT FISHING,

COMES in about a fortnight in May, and continues till about the middle of June: It is a very killing bait, and will take almoſt every ſort of fiſh in deep ſtanding waters as well as in ſtreams, mornings and evenings, till the middle of June. Your line for this purpoſe muſt be ſtrong and fine, at leaſt two yards of fine gut or graſs; the hook, No. 2, leaded upon the ſhank, and the Cod-Bait drawn upon the lead. The way of uſing it is by

by moving it up and down about a foot or nine inches from the bottom; which, in angling, is called ſink and drawn, by which motion the fiſh take it very eager either riſing or falling. There is another advantage in this way of fiſhing, by which you may fiſh in rivers or brooks incumbered with buſhes, near to ſtubs or roots in the water, in bubbles, curls or ſtreams, and other places in the water that cannot be fiſhed any other way, where generally the largeſt fiſh lie. Theſe Cod-baits or Cadis are to be found in gravelly and ſtony brooks, or rivulets, under great ſtones, in ſmall huſks compoſed of gravel and ſand; you will obſerve that the ripeſt, and thoſe fitteſt for uſe, ſtick to the ſtones; when you have got as many as you want to uſe, put them into a linen bag, tie them up and keep them five or ſix days, dipping the bag once a day in water, which makes them yellow, tough, and fit for uſe. This bait is made artificially, and takes as well as the natural, being not eaſily diſtinguiſhed the one from the other, in the water.

MAG-

MAGGOT-FISHING,

COMES in about the beginning of May, and continues till the latter end of February in the next year; it being the beſt and moſt killing ground-bait that ever was made uſe of; it will take every ſort of fiſh that ſwims in freſh water, except Salmon, Pike, or Shad; though I have taken ſmall Pike with a Maggot, but that is very uncommon. From the beginning of May till the latter end of June, Trouts take the Maggot very freely: From that time till the latter end of Auguſt they decline in their biting, there being not ſo many to be taken as in the two former months. About the beginning of Auguſt, greyling-fiſhing comes in, and continues good till the latter end of February; though there are ſome few greyling to be taken all the ſummer months, but the prime months are September, October, and November; being then in high ſeaſon, and greater quantities to be taken than in any other months in the year. Maggots are the beſt baits for quickneſs of ſport, and taking the greateſt quantity of fiſh that ever could be thought of, in rivers, brooks, and ponds; for, by throwing in a few handfuls of them, about half an hour or an hour before you begin to fiſh, draws the fiſh together, they feeding on them undiſturbed, have not

not the leaſt ſuſpicion of being taken, or decoyed. In ſuch places, ſo baited, you may always depend on having diverſion; your tackle ſuited for that purpoſe, according to the foulneſs or clearneſs of the water you fiſh in. The bottom of your line ſhould be about two yards of fine gut, or ſingle hair; the hook from No. 6 to No. 9; with a ſwan or gooſe-quil float upon your line; always obſerving that your ſhot drags on the bottom, eſpecially in a ſtream; making it a rule to fiſh the deeps in clear water, and the ſhallows when muddy. There are a great many baits and paſtes to take fiſh, but the Maggot muſt have the preference of all ground-baits.

How to Breed and Preſerve MAGGOTS *all the Winter.*

FOR this purpoſe you are to get a beef's liver, lights, lungs, or a ſheep's head, but livers are the beſt; after it is ſcored with a knife, hang it up and cover it, but not too cloſe, for the flies will blow it better covered than hanging in the open hair: In two or three days after you perceive the Maggots to be alive, take down the liver and put it into a barrel, box, or large earthen pot, and there let it remain till you think the Maggots are of full growth; then

then take a ſufficient quantity of bran, in proportion to the largeneſs of the liver, and throw it into them, and in three or four days the firſt brood of them will come out of the liver into the bran, and there ſcour themſelves; then, in three or four days more, take a ſtick and run through the liver, and hang it acroſs the barrel or pot, when the latter brood will ſoon drop out into the bran, and ſcour themſelves fit for uſe. If you are willing to preſerve Maggots all the winter, you muſt get two or three livers about the beginning of November, and if it be a favourable ſeaſon the flies will blow ſtronger than in the hotter months of the year, in order to preſerve their kind againſt the next ſummer: theſe are to be managed in the ſame manner as the other, only kept ſomewhat warmer till they come to their full growth, and then throw in a good quantity of bran, which will preſerve them from the froſt in the winter, keeping them in a cellar or ſome dampiſh place in the barrel or box they were bred in; thus you may keep them till the latter end of February, and uſe them any time at your pleaſure.

The GRASS-HOPPER FISHING,

COMES in about the latter end of June, and continues till the latter end of Auguſt: It is a curious fine bait very natural to fiſh, but very tender; to be drawn upon a leaded hook,

No.

No. 2, after the ſame manner as the cod-bait, and will take almoſt all ſorts of fiſh, as pike, trout, greyling, perch, chub, roach, dace, &c. Your tackle muſt be fine, the ſame as for the cod-bait; and to be fiſhed with after the ſame manner, and the ſame places in rivers and brooks. It is to be made artificially upon a leaded hook, which takes as well as the natural, but beſt when the water is low and fine, either natural or artificial: The young graſs-hoppers, about the latter end of May, are to be found in the joints of moſt ſorts of herbs and graſs in the fields, in a white fermented froth, called cuckoo's-ſpit, where they are nouriſhed for ſome time, and then drop into the graſs, and in about three weeks time arrive at their full growth and perfection, and ſo continue till the ſeverity of the weather deſtroys them; leaving their eggs in the graſs to preſerve their ſpecies till the next year.

CABBAGE-WORM, *or* CABBAGE-GRUB FISHING,

COMES in about the middle of June, and continues in their ſucceſſive flights till the latter end of October. There are three ſorts which the fiſh are remarkably fond of: They are to be fiſhed with after the ſame manner as the cod-bait or graſs-hopper; the tackle the ſame, only this difference, the hook muſt be No. 1,

leaded upon the ſhank, and the bait drawn upon the lead with a briſtle, whipped upon the ſhank to confine the bait upon the lead. They are equal in goodneſs to the cod-bait, or graſs-hopper, and will take the ſame ſorts of fiſh. Theſe three ſorts are to be made artificially: To be fiſhed with after the ſame manner, with equal ſucceſs, as the natural ones.

The White Butterfly is produced from the Speckled Cabbage-Grub.

The Brown Butterfly is produced from the Brown Cabbage-Grub, or Sleeper, to be found only in the hearts of cabbages.

The Dun Butterfly is produced from the Green Cabbage-Grub.

LAWS of ANGLING.

THE laws of England being all public, ignorance of their contents excuſes no offender. It will not be amiſs therefore to ſay ſomething of thoſe which concern the angler, that he may have a certain knowledge how, without offence, to demean himſelf amongſt his neighbours when he goes about his ſport.

Whoever fiſhes in the river Severn with, or ſhall make uſe of, any engine or device, whereby any ſalmon, trout, or barbel, under the length appointed by the ſtat. 1 Eliz. cap. 17, ſhall be taken or killed, or ſhall fiſh with any net for ſalmon-peale, pike, carp, trout, barbel, chub, or greyling, the meſh whereof ſhall be under two inches

inches and an half ſquare from knot to knot, or above twenty yards in length and two in breadth, or above fifty in length and ſix in breadth in the wing of the net, in the ſaid river, from Ripple-lock-Stake to Glouceſter-Bridge, or above ſixty in length below Glouceſter-Bridge, and ſix yards in breadth, in the wing of the net; or ſhall fiſh with more than one of theſe nets at once, or ſhall uſe any device for taking the fry of Eels, ſhall forfeit five ſhillings for every offence; and the fiſh ſo taken, and the inſtruments to be divided between the proſecutor and the poor. 3 Car. II.

If any perſon ſhall keep any net, angle, leap, piche, or other engine for taking fiſh, (except the makers or ſellers of them, or the owners or occupiers of rivers or fiſheries,) ſuch engines, if they ſhall be found fiſhing without the conſent of the owner, ſhall be ſeized; and any perſon, by a warrant under the hand and ſeal of a juſtice of peace, may ſearch the houſes of perſons prohibited and ſuſpected, and ſeize to their own uſe, or deſtroy ſuch engines. 4 & 5 W. & M. cap. 23.

No ſervant ſhall be queſtioned for killing a treſpaſſer within his maſter's liberty who will not yield, if not done out of former malice; yet if the treſpaſſer kills any ſuch ſervant, it is murder. 21 Eliz.

None ſhall unlawfully break, cut down, cut out, or deſtroy any head or heads, dam or dams, of any ponds, pools, moats, ſtagnes, ſtews, or ſeparate pits, wherein fiſh are, or ſhall happen

to be put by the owners or poſſeſſors thereof; or ſhall wrongfully fiſh in the ſame, to the intent to deſtroy, kill, take, or ſteal away, any of the ſame fiſh, againſt the mind of the owners thereof, without licence of the owner, on pain of ſuffering three months impriſonment, and to be bound to good behaviour for ſeven years after; and the party, in ſeſſions or elſewhere, ſhall recover treble damages againſt the delinquents. 5 Eliz.

None ſhall erect a weir or weirs along the ſea-ſhore, or in any haven or creek, or within five miles of the mouth of any haven or creek, or ſhall willingly take or deſtroy any ſpawn, fry, or brood of any ſea-fiſh, on pain of ten pounds, to be divided between the king and the proſecutor. Neither ſhall any fiſh in any of the ſaid places with any net of leſs meſh than three inches and a half between knot and knot, (except for ſmoulds in Norfolk only,) or with a canvas net, or other engine, whereby the ſpawn or fry of fiſh may be deſtroyed, on pain of forfeiting the ſaid net or engine, and ten ſhillings in money, to be divided between the poor and the proſecutor. 3 Jac. cap. 12.

By the ſtatute of 17 Rich. II. cap. 9, juſtices of the peace ſhall be conſervators of the ſtatute of Weſtm. 2 cap. 47, and 13 Ric. II. cap. 19, and ſhall have power to ſearch all weirs, leſt by their ſtraitneſs the fry of fiſh may be deſtroyed. And the ſaid juſtices ſhall have power to appoint and ſwear under-conſervators, and to hear and determine offences of this kind, and to puniſh

puniſh the offenders by impriſonment and fine, whereof the under-conſervator which informs, is to have half. The mayor or wardens of London have, by the ſame ſtatute, like power in the Thames, from Staines to London, and in the Medway, as far as the city grant extends. And every juſtice of peace before whom ſuch offender ſhall be convicted, may cut in pieces, and deſtroy all and every the nets and engines whatſoever, wherewith the offender is apprehended.

BARBEL is not to be taken under twelve inches long; the penalty is twenty ſhillings, the engine, and the fiſh.

HERRINGS are not to be ſold before the fiſhermen come to land, and muſt not be brought into Yarmouth Haven between Michaelmas and Martinmas; the penalty is impriſonment and forfeiture of the herrings.

LOBSTERS muſt not be ſold under eight inches from the peak of the noſe to the end of the middle fin of the tail; the forfeiture is one ſhilling for each lobſter.

PIKE muſt not be taken under ten inches: the forfeiture is twenty ſhillings, the fiſh, and the engine they are taken with.

SALMON is not to be ſent to London to fiſhmongers, or their agents, weighing leſs than ſix pounds; and every perſon that buys or ſells ſuch, ſhall be liable to forfeit five pounds, or be ſent to hard labour for three months.

IN the rivers Severn, Dee, Thame, Were, Tees, Ribble, Merſey, Dun, Air, Ouze, Swale, Caldor, Eure, Darwent and Trent, no

perſon is to lay nets, engines, or other devices, whereby the ſpawn or ſmall fry of ſalmon, or any keeper or ſhedder ſalmon, under eighteen inches long from the eye to the middle of the tail, ſhall be taken, killed, or deſtroyed. Nor ſhall they make, erect, or ſet any bank, dam, hedge, ſtank, or nets, acroſs the ſaid rivers, to take the ſalmon, or hinder them from going to ſpawn; nor ſhall they kill ſalmon in the ſaid rivers between the twelfth of Auguſt and the twenty-third of November, or fiſh with unlawful nets, under the penalty of five pounds for every offence; and for want of diſtreſs, to be ſent to hard labour for not leſs than one month, nor more than three months.

Those that uſe any net or engine to deſtroy the ſpawn or fry of fiſh, or take ſalmon or trout out of ſeaſon, or the latter leſs than eight inches long, or uſe any engine to take fiſh otherwiſe than by angling, or with a net of two inches and a half meſh, forfeit twenty ſhillings a fiſh, and the net or engine.

Those that ſell, offer, or expoſe to ſale, or exchange for any other goods, bret or turbot under ſixteen inches long, bril or pearl under fourteen, codlin twelve, whiting ſix, braſs and mullet twelve, ſole, plaice and dab, eight, and flounder ſeven, from the eyes to the utmoſt extent of the tail, are liable to forfeit twenty ſhillings by diſtreſs, or to be ſent to hard labour for not leſs than ſix, or more than fourteen days, and to be whipped.

Every

EVERY one who between the firſt of March and the laſt of May ſhall do any act whereby the ſpawn of fiſh ſhall be deſtroyed, ſhall forfeit forty ſhillings, and the inſtrument.

Extract from the Fiſh Act of 1765.

No one ſhall enter a park or paddock fenced in and incloſed, or garden, orchard, or yard, adjoining or belonging to any dwelling-houſe, in or through which park or paddock, garden, orchard, or yard, any river, or ſtream of water ſhall run or be, or wherein ſhall be any river, ſtream, pond, pool, moat, ſtew, or other water, or by any ways, means, or device, whatſoever, ſhall ſteal, take, kill, or deſtroy, any fiſh, bred, kept, or preſerved, in any ſuch river or ſtream, pond, pool, moat, ſtew, or other water aforeſaid, without the conſent of the owner, or owners thereof; or ſhall be aiding or aſſiſting in the ſtealing, taking, killing, or deſtroying, any ſuch fiſh, as aforeſaid; or ſhall receive or buy any ſuch fiſh, knowing the ſame to be ſo ſtolen or taken, as aforeſaid; and being thereof indicted within ſix calendar months next after ſuch offence or offences, ſhall have been committed, before any judge or juſtices of jail delivery for the county wherein ſuch park, or paddock, garden, orchard, or yard, ſhall be, and ſhall on ſuch indictment be, by verdict, on his, or their own confeſſion or confeſſions, convicted of any ſuch offence or offences, as aforeſaid, the perſon or perſons ſo convicted ſhall be tranſported for ſeven yers.

AND,

And, for the more eaſy and ſpeedy apprehending and convicting, of ſuch perſon or perſons as ſhall be guilty of any of the offences before-mentioned, be it further enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that in caſe any perſon or perſons ſhall, at any time after the firſt day of June, commit or be guilty of any ſuch offence or offences, as are herein before-mentioned, and ſhall ſurrender himſelf to any one of his Majeſty's juſtices of the peace in and for the county where ſuch offence or offences ſhall have been committed; or, being apprehended and taken, or in cuſtody for ſuch offence or offences, or on any other account, and ſhall voluntarily make a full confeſſion thereof, and a true diſcovery, upon oath, of the perſon or perſons who was or were his accomplices in ſaid offences, ſo as ſuch accomplice or accomplices may be apprehended and taken, and ſhall, on the trial of ſuch accomplice or accomplices, give ſuch evidence of ſuch offence or offences, as ſhall be ſufficient to convict ſuch accomplice or accomplices thereof; ſuch perſon making ſuch confeſſion and diſcovery, and giving ſuch evidence as aforeſaid, ſhall by virtue of this act, be pardoned, acquitted, and diſcharged, of and from the offence or offences ſo by him confeſſed, as aforeſaid.

That in caſe any perſon or perſons ſhall take, kill, or deſtroy, or attempt to take, kill, or deſtroy, any fiſh in any river or ſtream, pond, pool, or other water, (not being in any park or paddock, or in any garden, orchard, or yard, adjoining

adjoining or belonging to any dwelling-houſe, but ſhall be in any other incloſed ground which ſhall be private property,) every ſuch perſon being lawfully convicted thereof by the oath of one or more credible witneſs or witneſſes, ſhall forfeit and pay, for every ſuch offence, the ſum of five pounds, to the owner or owners of the fiſhery of ſuch river or ſtream of water, or of ſuch pond, pool, moat, or other water: and it ſhall and may be lawful to and for any one or more of his Majeſty's juſtices of the peace of the county, diviſion, riding, or place, where ſuch laſt-mentioned offence or offences ſhall be committed, upon complaint made to him or them, upon oath, againſt any perſon or perſons, for any ſuch laſt-mentioned offence or offences, to iſſue his or their warrant or warrants, to bring the perſon or perſons ſo complained of before him or them; and, if the perſon or perſons ſo complained of ſhall be convicted of any of the ſaid offences laſt-mentioned, before ſuch juſtice or juſtices, or any other of his Majeſty's juſtices of the ſame county, diviſion, riding, or place aforeſaid, by the oath or oaths of one or more credible witneſs or witneſſes, which oath ſuch juſtice or juſtices are hereby authoriſed to adminiſter; or by his or their own confeſſion; then, and in ſuch caſe, the party ſo convicted ſhall, immediately after ſuch conviction, pay the penalty of five pounds, hereby before impoſed for the offence or offences aforeſaid, to ſuch juſtice or juſtices before whom he ſhall be ſo convicted, for the uſe of ſuch perſon or perſons as the ſame

ſame is hereby appointed to be forfeited and paid unto; and, in default thereof, ſhall be committed by ſuch juſtice or juſtices to the houſe of correction, for any time not exceeding ſix months, unleſs the money forfeited ſhall be ſooner paid.

THUS having given my Readers as clear Directions for Angling, as my experience ſuggeſts; and a copious account of baits, natural and artificial, whereby the Angler may rely on having ſport, in regular ſucceſſion through the courſe of the year, and laid down the beſt and plaineſt inſtructions I can, as well as a copious account of the Laws of Angling, I ſhall now take may leave of him in the celebrated words of the poet:

———*Si quid noviſsi rectius iſtis,*
Candidus imperti: ſi non, his utere mecum.

FINIS.

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